

FRIENDS' NEWS

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL DUBLIN

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FRIENDS' COMMITTEE (2025–6)

Patron: Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough,
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The Very Revd Dermot Dunne (2008)
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The Venerable David Pierpoint (2004)
Archdeacon of Glendalough,
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Honorary Treasurer: Mr Alan Mulligan (2025)
Membership Secretary: Ms Bridie McLaughlin (2023)
Honorary Outings Organisers: Mr Adrian Le Harivel (2024) & Mr Eric Rankin (2022)
Honorary Editor: Dr Stuart Kinsella (2024)

**Friends' Committee
(Elected at the
Trinity Sunday AGM
for 2025–6)**

<i>Dean's nominees</i>	<i>Elected</i>
Canon Paul Arbuthnot	Mr Raymond Cregan
Mr Desmond Campbell	Mr Tom Little
Dr Ken Fennelly	Dr Kenneth Milne
Dr Stuart Kinsella	Mr Alan Mulligan
Mr Adrian Le Harivel	Mr Eric Rankin
Mr Matthew Zaradich	Mrs Iris Thompson
<i>Co-opted:</i>	Ms Bridie McLaughlin

FRIENDS' MEMBERSHIP

The Friends of Christ Church cathedral support the work and worship of the cathedral and all are welcome to become members of the organisation.

Minimum subscriptions: within Ireland €25 or overseas €35.

Contributions of €250 and over may be tax refundable in Ireland and include five-year membership of the Friends. Friends are invited to give more if they can.

Membership applications to: Ms Bridie McLaughlin,
Membership Secretary,
The Chapter House, Christ Church Cathedral,
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The opinions expressed in *Friends' News* are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, who publish the journal.

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CATHEDRAL CHRONICLE

January – July 2025

JANUARY

New Year's Day 1 Jan	Lunchtime recital: Queensbury High School Madrigal Singers, USA
Epiphany, Sun 5 Jan	Choral eucharist & evensong for Feast of Epiphany (transferred)
Mon 6 – Wed 8 Jan	Cathedral closed
Mon 13 – Mon 27 Jan	Exhibition: From medieval to digital (Ballyfermot College of Further Education) *
Mon 20 Jan	Interdenominational service in Irish: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 'Celebrating the Nicene Creed, 325–2025', with crypt reception
Fri 31 Jan	Past Choristers' Association Concert: A night at the movies with Judith Lyons (soprano) & Judith Gannon (piano) in the nave

FEBRUARY

Sun 2 Feb	Candlemas procession *
Tues 4, 11, 18 & 25 Feb	Lunchtime lectures: 'No homes to go to': Dublin charities & homelessness, 1790–2025 *
Sat 8 Feb	Print-making workshops
Sun 9 Feb	Choral evensong & installation of the Revd Suzanne Harris & Canon Paul Arbuthnot (a canon of St Patrick's cathedral) as 11th & 12th canons *
Tue 11 Feb	Lunchtime recital: Grossmont High School <i>Red Robe Choir</i> , El Cajon, California, USA
Sun 16 Feb	Choral evensong attended by St James's church Crinken, with their minister, Canon Tom O'Brien *
Sun 16 Feb	Evening concert: Langley High School Band, USA & Ceoltóirí Chluain Tarbh, Fairview, Dublin
Thur 20 & Thur 27 Feb	Dublinia lunchtime lectures: St Michael's (Stuart Kinsella) & Synod Hall (Michael O'Neill)
Sat 22 Feb	Friends' afternoon outing: Royal Irish Academy of Music

MARCH

Sun 2 Mar	Choral evensong attended by Dublin Romanian Orthodox, with preacher one of the cathedral's two ecumenical canons, Metropolitan Josef, Metropolitan of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of Southern & Western Europe *
Mon 3 Mar	Past Choristers' Association Evening Crypt Table Quiz
Ash Wed 5 Mar	Ash Wednesday eucharist & imposition of ashes
Weds 5, 12, 19 & 26 Mar	Evening Lenten lecture series: 'Salvation in the Gospel of John' (Fr Kieran O'Mahony, OSA) *
Thur 6 Mar	Dublinia lunchtime lectures: Liberties weaving (Cathi Scuffil)
Fri 7 Mar	Community of St Laurence Film Evening: <i>Living</i> (with Bill Nighy)
Sun 9 Mar	Volunteer lunch: Greeters, collectors & acolytes
Wed 12 Mar	Lunchtime recital: Groton School Choir, Massachusetts, USA



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windows
project



Tue 18 Mar Lunchtime recital: Hamilton College Choir, Clinton, New York, USA
 Mons 24 & 31 Mar Past Choristers' Film Evening: 'Pride and Prejudice' (1995) series
 Tue 25 Mar Bible Class: Feast of the Annunciation
 Fri 28 Mar Lunchtime recital: Oktavia Vokal, Norway
 Fri 28 Mar Friends' afternoon lectures: 'Marking Time' (Adrien Le Harivel) *

APRIL

Weds 2 & 9 Apr Evening Lenten lecture series: 'Salvation in the Gospel of John' (Fr Kieran O'Mahony, OSA) *
 Mon 7 Apr Past Choristers' film evening: 'Pride and Prejudice' (1995) series
 Thur 10 Apr Quarter peal: Sheffield Universities Guild of Change Ringers 2025 tour of Ireland (96 Double Dublin Surprise Major – first blows for the whole team – & 1371 Plain Bob Doubles)
 Sat 12 Apr Lunchtime recital: Montgomery High School, Choir, Skillman, New Jersey, USA



Mendicity Institution's Hard Ground coffee truck.

Palm Sun 13 Apr Palm Sunday eucharist & Community Choir evening concert: Henry Purcell, *Dido & Aeneas, An Opera in Three Acts*
 Mon 14 Apr Interview with Archbishop Jackson at Christ Church on subject of Middle East, expressing solidarity with Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza *
 Mon 14 – Wed 16 Apr Holy week services
 Maundy Thur 17 Apr Morning Chrism mass & evening eucharist of the Last Supper *
 Good Fri 18 Apr Morning reflections at the Cross, Afternoon Good Friday liturgy & evening ecumenical walk of witness
 Easter Sat 19 Apr Easter vigil & baptism & confirmation of Rimako Miyazawa
 Easter Sun 20 Apr Easter Sunday services *

- Fri 4, 11 & 25 Apr Friends' afternoon lectures: 'Marking Time'
(Hilary O'Kelly, Stuart Kinsella & Sighle Bhreathnach-Lynch) *
- Tue 22 Apr Lunchtime recital, Mother McAuley & Brother Rice High Schools,
Chicago, Illinois, USA
Camino marker stone installed at the south-west of the cloister
- Wed 23 Apr Evening talk: Dr Jesse Harrington speaking to pilgrims travelling to Eu,
France attending festivities marking the 800th anniversary of
Laurence O'Toole's canonization
- Fri 25 Apr Lunchtime recital: Mater Dei High School Choir, Santa Ana, California, USA
- Sat 26 Apr Workshop: Make your own tile
- Sun 27 Apr Choral evensong commemorating the 1915 Armenian Genocide *

MAY

- Thur 1 May Alzheimer Society of Ireland 'Tea Day' at Christ Church &
Evening lecture in Lucan Public Library by Stuart Kinsella:
'Exploring the monastic origins of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin'
- Mon 5, 12 & 19 May Evening organ recital
- Tue 6 May Friends' lunchtime tour: Cathedral & crypt tour (Stuart Kinsella)
- Wed 7 May Culture Date with Dublin 8: Yoga in the nave
- Thur 8 May Culture Date with D8: Tower tour & Festival Chorus rehearsal
- Fri 9 May Culture Date with D8: Rats & Rascals tour, organ recital,
Festival Chorus rehearsal & Yoga in the nave
- Sat 10 May Culture Date with D8: Family monks' tour & Festival Chorus rehearsal
- Sat 10 – Mon 12 May Pilgrimage to Eu, France for 800th anniversary of canonization of
St Laurence O'Toole, archbishop of Dublin (1162-80) *
- Sun 11 May Culture Date with D8: Festival Chorus rehearsal & performance
in Service of Thanksgiving
- Mon 12 May Lunchtime recital: American Festival Choir including members from
Worship Choirs of First Baptist Church in Minden, Louisiana & Trinity
Baltimore in Lutherville, Maryland, USA
- Tue 13 May Community outreach: Schools' concert sung by cathedral choir
- Wed 14 May Chaplaincy symposium: 'Do good, be generous and ready to share:
Chaplaincy as service of God and neighbour' *
- Sat 17 May Afternoon workshop: Kooky Comic Making with Alan Nolan
- Thur 22 May Friends' afternoon outing: Two Georgian houses on Merrion Square East
no. 45, Irish Architectural Archive & no. 37, Goethe Institute,
by city walk specialist & art historian, Adrian Le Harivel
- Sat 24 May Crypt launch of national 'Heritage Week' (16–24 August 2025)
- Sun 25 May Bellringing: Quarter peal of 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor in
48 minutes, conducted by Gary McGuire
- Sun 25 May Choral evensong & commissioning of lay readers *
- Thur 29 May Choral evensong (Ascension Day)
- Sat 31 May Workshop: Make a stained glass sun-catcher
- Sat 31 May Community of St Laurence: Morning hiking at Howth

JUNE

Mon 2, 9, 16 & 23 June	Evening organ recital
Tue 3 June	Lunchtime recital: University of Southern Indiana Chamber Choir Friends' First Tuesday tours: The cathedral liberty by art historian, Adrian Le Harivel
Fri 6 June	Lunchtime recital: Rolling Meadows High School
Sun 8 June	Pentecost eucharist & choral evensong with confirmations
Tue 10 June	Exterior scaffolding on nave south side erected for work on clerestory windows
Fri 13 June	Choral evensong for Pride with reception *
Sat 14 June	Workshop: 'Where there is love: How the Episcopal church embraced LGBTQ+ inclusion' by the Rt Revd Dr Bonnie A. Perry, bishop of Michigan
Trinity Sun 15 June	Festal eucharist (Preacher: Bishop Perry) Friends' AGM, festal evensong (Past Choristers' Annual Reunion) & evening concert: Bakersfield Chorale
Mon 16 June	Lunchtime recital: Houston's First Worship, Texas, USA
Thur 19 June	Friends' morning outing: National Maritime Museum of Ireland, Dun Laoghaire (Eric Rankin)
Thur 19 June	Evening Pipeworks concert: Mornington Singers
Fri 20 June	Evening concert: San Joaquin Choir
Sat 21 June	Lunchtime recital: World Singers
Sat 21 June	Community of St Laurence: Picnic in the Phoenix Park
Sat 21 June	Evening concert: Uzee Brown Society of Choraliers & Georgia Symphony Chorus
Sun 22 June	Interior scaffolding on nave southside erected for clerestory windows
Tue 24 June	Lunchtime recital: Houston Choral Society
Thur 26 June	Lunchtime recital: Alexandria Choral Society (<i>moved to St Patrick's</i>)
Fri 27 June	Evening concert: Irish Youth Choir (14–17 years) (<i>moved to St Patrick's</i>)
Sat 28 June	Lunchtime recital: Sacramento Master Singers
Sat 28 June	Workshop: Make your own tile
Mon 30 June	Lunchtime recital: Olympia Youth Choir, USA

JULY 2025

Tue 1 July	Lunchtime recital: John Creek Chorale & Harmonia Atlanta, Georgia, USA & Friends' First Tue tours: 'Making music in the cathedral' by director of music, Tom Little (in Dublinia).
Wed 2 July	Summer soirée: Music & reception for cathedral community
Thur 3 July	Evening concert: St Agnes Summer Strings
Sun 6 July	Eucharist & evensong sung by University of Leeds Chamber Choir
Thur 10 July	Evensong sung by Girls' Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa
Fri 11 – Sun 13 July	Internal nave scaffolding removed
Fri 18 July	Wedding: Laura-Joy Copeland & Rónán Kelly Warmest wishes to our alto lay vicar choral colleague & her fiancé on their summer marriage in the cathedral
Fri 18 July	Evening summer social: Cathedral staff
Sat 19 July	Bell ringers: Tour to Doneraile

- Sat 19 July Friends' midday outing: Nutley Court 'at home' (Adrian Le Harivel)
- Sun 20 July Eucharist & evensong sung, in Christ Church by the choir of St Paul's Glenageary, & in St Patrick's by the joint choirs of the Past Choristers of Christ Church & St Patrick's cathedrals;
Christ Church Evening concert: Irish Youth Choir (18–28 years)
- Mon 21 July Liberties Festival: Evening yoga in the nave
- Tue 22 July Liberties Festival: Afternoon crypt tour
- Wed 23 July Liberties Festival: Morning history tour (Dr Ruth Kenny),
afternoon crypt tour & evening yoga in the nave
- Thur 24 July Lunchtime recital, Prattville United Methodist Church Choir;
Liberties Festival: Afternoon bell ringing tours & evensong sung by King's Voices, King's College, Cambridge
- Fri 25 July Liberties Festival: Evening bell ringing tours
- Sat 26 July Liberties Festival: Morning bell ringing tours &
afternoon stained glass workshop
- Sun 27 July Liberties Festival: Afternoon monks' tour
- Wed 30 July Labyrinth training day (postponed) *

** Noted on Dublin & Glendalough diocesan website by Lynn Glanville, Diocesan Communications Officer*



Ringing master Ray Cregan, Gary Brannigan & a photobombing seagull!



WELCOMING FRIENDS

Dr Stuart Kinsella

EDITOR OF FRIENDS' NEWS

Having originally begun as a Spring edition, the present Summer edition has had to be revised a little and is therefore understandably somewhat more plump. We are fortunate to have contributions from virtually all corners of the cathedral. The dean dwells on the liturgical implications of G.E. Street's architectural restoration, while the dean's vicar invites volunteers to become more involved. There are also welcome contributions from the CEO on the intricacies of ongoing cathedral developments, as well as the surveyor of the fabric on upkeep and restoration works, particularly the south clerestory windows of the nave. In a helpful addition, Fiona Cooper of Dublin City Council explains the plans near the cathedral for the St Werburgh quarter, revealing surprising details to this historic area.

The cathedral's rich musical heritage is discussed in items relating to the choir and organ from both director of music and assistant organist, while Twm Watkins and Lesley-Anne Carey report on the cathedral's musical outreach and on the Past Choristers' association respectively. Music of the heavier metal variety is covered in a belfry briefing from the ringing master, while former ringing master, David Taylor, reminisces about earlier times at the cathedral. On the heritage front, there are updates on education from Dr Ruth Kenny and conservation from Dr Raymond Refaüssé. The editor, taking his inspiration from

Peter Donnelly's *President's Glasses*, examines the relations between Christ Church and governing rulers over the ages, literally from Viking princes to Republic presidents. Dr Jesse Harrington contributes an informed and in-depth examination of St Laurence O'Toole, and the celebrations marking 800 years since he was canonized in 1225. We are also fortunate to have a contribution from Aonghus Dwane, in Irish, looking at two religious men with Dublin connections from Anglican backgrounds: John Henry Newman and John Sullivan.

The Friends themselves have been busy planning activities for the next months, and the editor gives some overview of the year so far and plans for forthcoming tours and outings. Dr Kenneth Milne reports on the visit to Rathfarnham castle last year, and Adrian Le Harivel contributes a piece on the Friends' visit to the Royal Irish Academy of Music earlier this year. Another gathering of people within the cathedral is the Community of St Laurence, and their secretary and treasurer, Vivienne George, reports on their activities, while one of the co-wardens, Matty Zaradich, newly elected also as the secretary of the Friends, recalls the Pride evensong at which Bishop Bonnie Perry preached.

The work of the Friends' committee is reflected in pages encouraging people to become members; in the agenda and minutes from the AGM held on Trinity Sunday last, as well as in the 2024 accounts, and in a profile of four new committee members. Last, but not least, a chronicle has been kept of the activities that have

taken place in the cathedral so far this year, which is paired with a list of forthcoming events, all of which is rounded up with an up-to-date summary of cathedral personnel. For the eagle-eyed, there is an apologetic list of corrections, and for the curious, a list of illustration sources.

We were also delighted that *Friends' News* was awarded the runner-up prize in the category of affiliate magazine in this year's Church of Ireland Communications Competition (second only to *Search: A Church of Ireland Journal*, edited by a cathedral canon emerita, the Revd Dr

Ginnie Kennerley). Lastly, many thanks to all the contributors for giving up their time, writing, photographic and design skills to the service of the broader cathedral community. *Friends' News* not only provides an important way of informing a wider community of the happenings at the cathedral, but it is also an important record of activity. Do join us at the cathedral's many forthcoming events, particularly for the Friends' guided tours and outings, and encourage others to join. A strong community is the lifeblood of the Friends!



*Church of Ireland Communications Competition:
The Very Revd Nigel Dunne, dean of St Finbarre's, Cork,
Stuart Kinsella, & Scott Hayes of Ecclesiastical Insurance.*

CATHEDRAL SERVICES

CHORAL

Eucharist: Sunday (11.00)
Evensong: Sunday (15.30), Tuesday & Thursday (18.00)

SAID

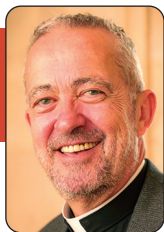
Morning Prayer: Monday–Friday (10.00)
Evening Prayer: Monday, Wednesday and Friday (17.00)
Midday Eucharist: Monday–Friday (12.45)

Ministry of Healing Eucharist

Prayers for wholeness and healing with the laying on of hands takes place during the Thursday celebrations of the Eucharist.

Celtic Eucharist

This is celebrated at the lunchtime Eucharist on the first Friday of every month.
All services are live-streamed on the cathedral website.



FROM THE DEAN
The Very Revd Dermot Dunne
DEAN OF CHRIST CHURCH

When I stand at the cathedral west door after a service, one of the questions I am asked frequently is whether the cathedral is Roman Catholic. The question is: why do people assume that we are Roman rather than Anglican? In trying to answer the question I think we need to explore a number of factors that might lead to someone assuming the cathedral to be other than Church of Ireland, Anglican. First of all, the fact that there are two cathedrals within a five-minute walk of each other could easily lead the visitor to assume that one is Roman and the other is Anglican. Secondly, the cathedral being nearly one thousand years old would lead the uninitiated to believe that because of its age and, like its continental counterparts, the cathedral would have to be Roman. It comes as a major revelation and sometimes shock when the visitor is told of the denomination of the cathedral.

When one walks through the cathedral one could be confused too. What is there to distinguish it from an average Roman equivalent? I lay this confusion firmly at the feet of the architect George Edmund Street, the architect at the helm of the 1871 cathedral restoration. Through his classic design he orchestrated the cathedral in such a way as to resemble the great cathedrals of the United Kingdom and Europe, abandoning the classic Protestant design of a long choir, short sanctuary and separate lady chapel. He opted for the more Catholic style of a short

choir, large sanctuary with a surrounding ambulatory intact and a lady chapel firmly set behind the high altar. Even his stained-glass window designs were carefully crafted to culminate in the crucifixion window at the east end behind the high altar.

The introduction of the rood screen further enhanced the Catholic embellishment of an otherwise plain Protestant edifice. What we are left with is a beautiful classic design that embodies the Oxford movement's embracing of a high Anglican style. Even if the liturgy was as plain as one could make it and the celebrant of the said liturgy was naked in the celebration, one would be forgiven in thinking that the liturgy and its situation was more of a Roman enterprise.

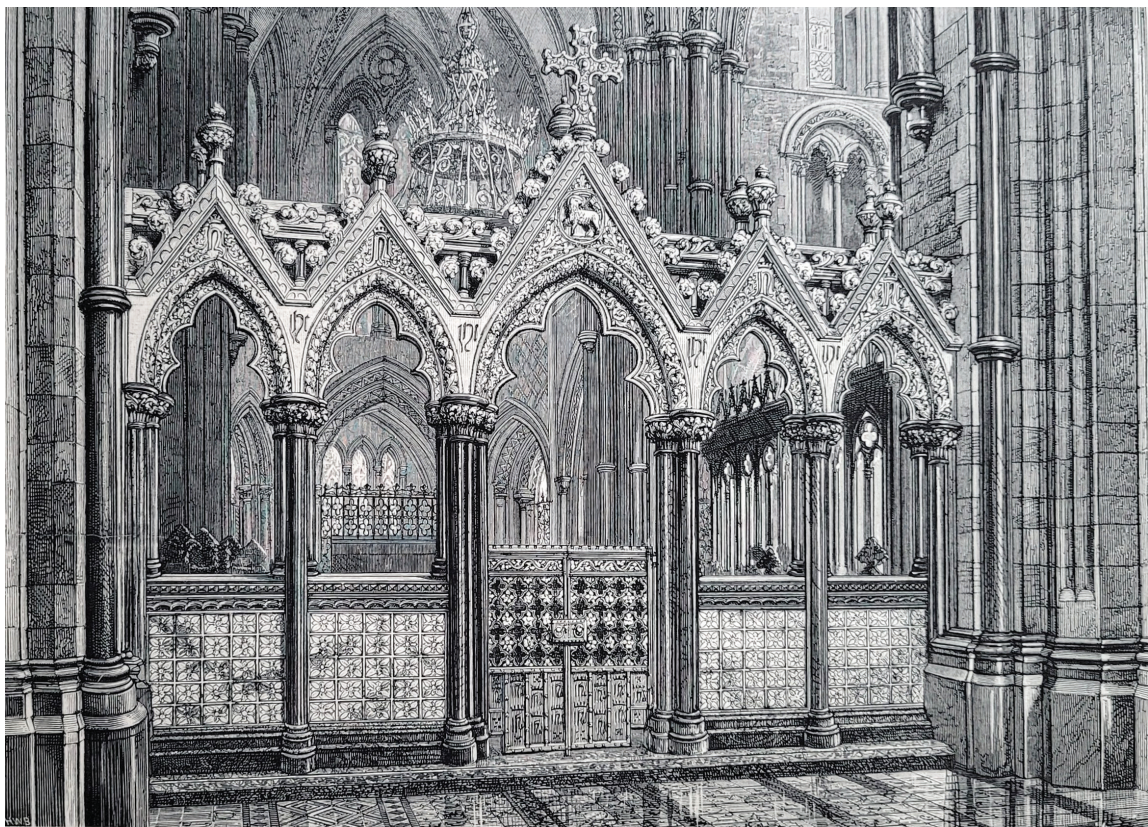
And then there is the liturgy. Many of the eucharistic settings are sung in Latin and originate from the pre-Reformation period. That, coupled with vestments and a highly stylized form could lead one to believe that they were in a Roman setting. This is accentuated by the addition of icons in the lady chapel and ambulatories and a reliquary chapel for St Laurence O'Toole, patron saint of Dublin, who introduced the monastic community of Augustinian canons regular to the cathedral. Even the uninitiated Irish protestant might feel he/she is in a place alien to their experience of church when they experience the life and worship of the cathedral.

So, you might ask, as dean, what is my answer to the question of the cathedral's expression and how do I distinguish the

cathedral as being a truly Church of Ireland Anglican expression of the Christian faith?

First and foremost, I need to state that I have no agenda of the cathedral being Romanized in its expression. Secondly, the very essence of our liturgy and worship is firmly based on the Book of Common Prayer and according to the guidelines set

out by the bishops and General Synod of the Church of Ireland. There is absolutely no wandering from this. The cathedral retains and embraces an Anglican politic in its expression. Through adapting the Anglican five marks of mission and embracing the Anglican values of scripture, reason and tradition, it embodies the life



The cathedral choir screen designed by G.E. Street (1871–8) with its original alabaster panels which were removed to Seapatrck church, Banbridge, by Thomas Drew (1883), here drawn by H.W. Brewer & engraved by Adolphe-François Pannemaker.

of a cathedral in that tradition seeking to preach the gospel to all who come through its doors.

Every Sunday, I welcome people to the celebration of the Eucharist from all over the world. We have a regular congregation

of about thirty to forty which expands to nigh on two hundred by visitors who have come to holiday in Dublin. I refer to the gathered congregation as the community in the moment who have chosen to be in the cathedral at this given time. Some of

these visitors are faithful members of their own churches whilst for others it might be the first time they have been in a church or who has been away from the church for a long time. The liturgy needs to be fresh and alive every Sunday. We cannot treat the cathedral like a regular parish church as it needs to go beyond ministering to the local to evangelizing a new people into the life of Christ. As much as our mission is to build up the Church of God it is also to reach out to the stranger and make them welcome in the House of God. The cathedral is the showcase of the diocese and a window into the life and ministry of the Church of Ireland. I believe, therefore,

that all our celebrations in the cathedral need to be both authentic and inviting and be of an excellence that brings people closer to God. I feel that I have achieved something if the worship has brought the person closer to themselves and closely connected to God.

So, in answer to that initial question: no, we are not Roman Catholic. But we are an all-embracing community who wants you to come into closer connection with yourself and with God. Truly, isn't this the mission of the whole Church of God?



Archbishop Michael Jackson & Dean Dermot Dunne wearing copes in a sunny Eu in France on a pilgrimage to mark the 800th anniversary of the canonization of St Laurence O'Toole in May this year.



VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

The Revd Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff
DEAN'S VICAR & CHAPTER CLERK

Many of you will notice that I've practically been spamming everybody associated with the cathedral with our new volunteer sign-up form, which I've asked existing volunteers to fill in, as well as anybody interested in volunteering on a Sunday morning.

I can almost hear the collective eye roll, as you're asked for the wherewithal for us to fulfil our GDPR and safer recruiting obligations, and I do get it: in a world full of protocols and bureaucracy, it would be nice if the cathedral could be a haven therefrom. Time was that generosity was appreciated in the spirit it was given, we trusted one another and got on with the task at hand.

Unfortunately, *time was* communities were smaller and more integrated and stable. Today, if our community is going to be one where vulnerable people can be safe(er), in which we all have the same expectations of one another – and from which your data isn't accidentally broadcast outside the community – we have to replace the organic knowledge we no longer have with paper systems that we need to create. It's a nuisance, but honestly, it is part of making our cathedral community more communal.

However, if that is not an argument enough, then I offer you an alternative one: pity

me! I have recently taken on board the rotas for ministers, acolytes, intercessors, welcomers, collectors, and disseminating within the cathedral the

readers' rota. It is far from my front foot – in fact it is so far from being my front foot it is not a foot at all, more a sort of bleeding stump – so trying to collect who does what, and how I contact them, in order that I might somehow, somehow organise all these people into a coherent rota of willingness is made *significantly* easier if I have everybody's information in one place!



Crucifers & acolytes at the Candlemas procession (Sunday 2 February 2025).

So, my thanks for those of you who have filled in this form, it is much appreciated. Your five minutes of form-filling not only saves me time and heartache, but equips us better to build a community of mutual flourishing. Those who have not, you can simply point your phone camera at the QR code (left) and the link to it will appear on your screen for you to tap and be taken thereunto 😊. But, as ever, if anything remains unclear do get in touch and I am more than happy to talk it through.





CEO PERSPECTIVE

Susanne Reid
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

There was an immediate energy to 2025 as the year started with intensive work with the Incorporation committee and the cathedral's legal and tax advisors as we worked on producing the documents required to support the proposed governance restructure at Christ Church. One of these documents was a draft bill and constitution for Christ Church cathedral which came before General Synod in May. It passed unanimously. This restructure is intended to offer better legal protection to our trustees and to position the cathedral to enter contracts and to fundraise.

The Board worked with CCS Fundraising for the first six months of this year to establish if the cathedral has the capacity to fundraise. Following an extensive consultation exercise and based on a

detailed report from CCS Fundraising, the Board has resolved to proceed with a fundraising campaign.

I am delighted to report that we were once again successful in securing an Historic Structures Fund grant. This grant is being used to help pay for the restoration of the eighteen clerestory windows (three in each of six bays) and surrounding stonework on the south of the nave. This project requires scaffolding to be erected both internally and externally for a number of months.

Following the completion of our accessibility audit in October 2024, the Board committed budget to improve accessibility in busy areas of the cathedral. In 2025 we will place a temporary ramp at the south west door, install shallower steps and handrails at the lectern, install handrails on the steps at the Cross door from the cathedral to the chapter house,

Scaffolding on the nave south elevation.



and install handrails on the steps at the entrance to the chapter house. Improvement works continue in the chapter house with high quality secondary glazing installed in the upstairs office, and all carpeted areas had new carpet laid in April.

We are keeping a close eye on visitor numbers as the tourist season commences.

Indications are that 2025 will be a little softer than last year due to the ongoing issues in Ukraine, Gaza and the USA.

On a personal note, I marked ten years at Christ Church in April and am grateful to my colleagues for the beautiful flowers and cake that they organised.



Above: New carpet in the chapter house.

Below: New carpet & partition in the upstairs office (the old library & schoolroom).





THANK YOU FOR VISITING US TODAY

Please help us with our windows project.

Christ Church Cathedral Dublin

WE ARE OPEN

Please excuse our appearance while we carry out essential restoration of our stained-glass windows

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Entrance





ARCHITECTURAL UPDATE

Frank Keohane

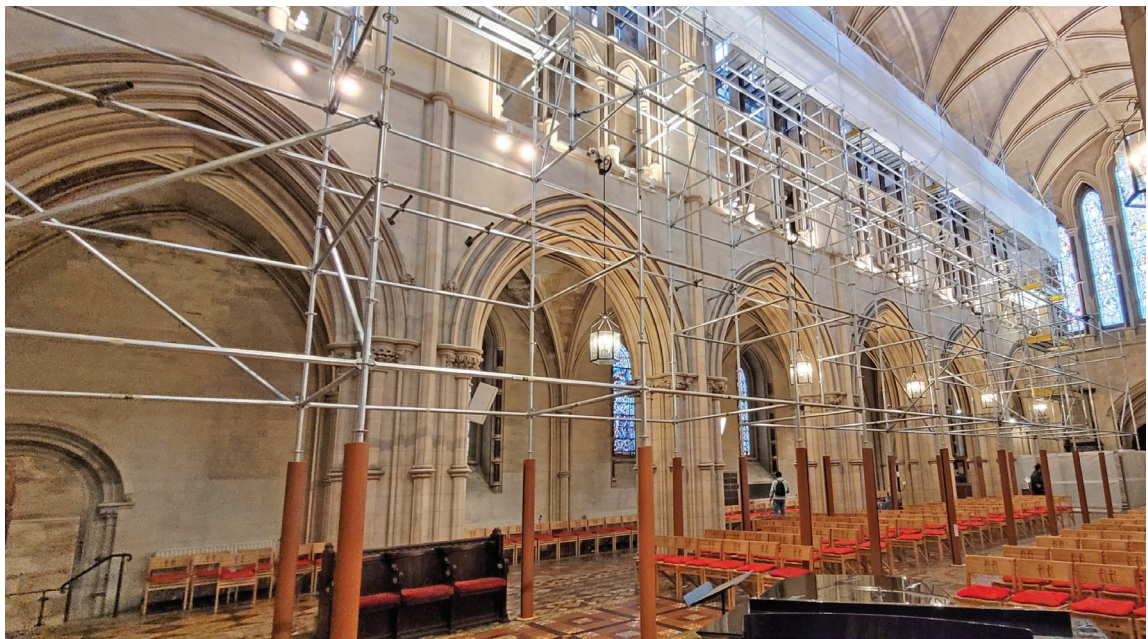
SURVEYOR OF THE FABRIC

Repair works and conservation works at the cathedral are planned and prioritised on foot of the quinquennial survey which is undertaken every five years. These works are also informed by the Cathedral's Conservation Management Plan. While there are always small running repair jobs like securing loose slates and replacing perished leadwork, we also plan for larger projects which will conserve the cathedral for the long term. In 2024 we undertook varied repairs to the exterior of the chapter house. This included raking out and repointing stonework to the facades and cleaning and restoring the leaded windows. The repointing works were undertaken by Summit Conservation while the work to the windows was undertaken by Canon

Studios. In addition, Lionshead Metal Works carefully cleaned and repainted the delicate wrought-iron work to the railings along John's Lane as well as the elaborate hinges to the cathedral doors. A Historic Structure Grant of €171,000 was secured to assist with these works.

In 2025 we are tackling the clerestory on the south side of the nave. Here the calp (a local Dublin Carboniferous limestone) stonework to the wall was repointed in the past using cement-based mortar and much of this had started to deteriorate. In places this was resulting in moisture ingress into the building interior with resulting damage to the Caen stonework which lines the internal walls of the nave, as well as the ceiling vault. The cement pointing will be raked out and the stonework will be repointed using a lime-based mortar

Below: Internal scaffolding along the south side of the nave.





Above: A section of the external scaffolding walkway.

Below: One of the pieces of damaged stained glass.

which will allow the wall to ‘breathe’. The yellow Caen stone to the window surrounds has suffered over the 150 years since the cathedral’s restoration. This soft stone is literally crumbling away – a process known as spalling – and in some cases the decorative mouldings have been completely lost. This will require repairs with conservation mortars as well as new stone to match the original.

The six sets of windows are glazed with grisaille glass made by James Bell of London and feature the coats of arms of the dioceses of Ireland. These will be cleaned and re-leaded where the leadwork has started to deteriorate,



before reinstating them and securing them to the delicate wrought iron grilles which are known as *ferramenta*. The conservation of the glass and ironwork is being undertaken by Cannon Studios while

the stone repointing and repairs is being undertaken by Summit Conservation. The cathedral was again successful in securing a Historic Structures Grant of €157,000 to assist with these essential repairs.

Below: An example of spalling around the windows.





WERBURGH'S QUARTER

Fiona Cooper

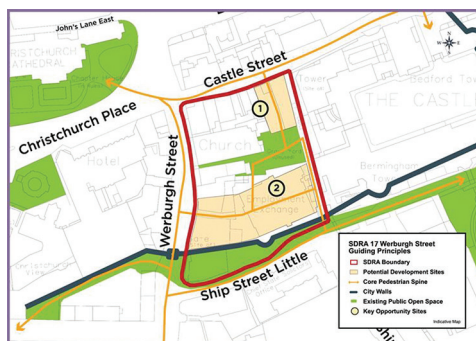
SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER, DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Fiona Cooper has kindly written an overview of plans for the 'Werburgh Quarter' (which includes both the church and deanery), and which demonstrates something of the intricacies involved behind the scenes in ongoing work by Dublin City Council to improve our historic urban landscape. It is hoped that a future article will examine work being carried out at St Werburgh's church within this scheme.

The 'Werburgh Quarter' is a city block bounded by Castle Street to the north, to the west by Werburgh Street, the south by Ship Street Little and to the east by the Castle 40 Steps. A relatively small pocket of the city, this city block is considered of national and international importance due to its historical and archaeological context: a site continuously occupied since the tenth century when it was first established as a Viking settlement. Today it is home to St Werburgh's church and graveyard, the Christ Church deanery and a long upstanding section of the old city wall. However, pockets of land within the city block are currently lying vacant or under-utilised, presenting an air of dereliction and offering a poor vista on approach to Dublin castle.

Acknowledging both the opportunities of the under-utilised sites and the unique cultural assets (above and below ground), the Dublin City Development Plan 2022–28 introduced the Werburgh Quarter as a new Strategic Development and Regeneration Area (SDRA no. 17). Adopted in 2022, the Development Plan rezoned the vacant plots to the south of the city wall along Ship Street Little from city centre mixed-use development zoning to open space. The objective is to create a new civic public open space that showcases the city wall, protects the Victorian brick-arched culvert that runs underneath, containing the River

Poddle along with associated archaeological ruins/ deposits, and creates an enticing vista on approach to the Castle gates. The City Development Plan sets out a series of high-level specific guidance for this unique urban quarter that seeks to ensure future uses protect and complement the cultural heritage of the area.



Dublin City Development Plan 2022–28.

In 2021–22 Dublin City Council (DCC) secured funding under the government Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) which facilitated the acquisition of vacant plots north and south of the city wall that had fallen into disrepair and were used for surface car parking. A corresponding joint funding application by the City Council and Office of Public Works secured funding for an accompanying Strategic Masterplan for this area, which will shape a vision for how to successfully regenerate the vacant lands whilst respecting the rich history

of the area, and will be undertaken by an integrated design team, led by conservation architects Shaffrey Architects, appointed in 2023.



Map from tender brief – Red line: Plan area; Blue: Development sites; Salmon: St Werburgh's church, graveyard & Christ Church deanery; Green: Public realm & castle walls.

The masterplan is tasked with exploring the development opportunities for two key site, that include a smaller OPW owned site onto Castle Street (site 1) and a larger site north of the city wall (site 2), comprised of lands owned by a number of different landowners.

It will explore opportunities for collaborations and enhanced permeability and include a design for the proposed new public open space. The area contains several features of note, both above and below ground, including urban morphology, historic buildings, watercourses, biodiversity, sacred places and burials, key views and a stepped ground plane. Some interesting attributes of the area that influence the masterplan include:

HOEY'S COURT

Immediately south of the deanery runs a small section of laneway serving a lock-up garage and the OPW's current GRO (General Registry Office) and former labour exchange building. This lane was once part of a connected street, Hoey's Court, that ran from Werburgh Street to Cole Alley (replaced by the Castle Steps in 1809) in the seventeenth-century. Initially a desirable residential location, this street was home to some of Dublin's chief lawyers, the Guild of Glovers and the Corporation of Brewers. Hoey's Court is also the birthplace of Jonathan Swift (b. 1667 at no. 9 or no. 7), author of *Gulliver's Travels* amongst many other pieces, and dean of St Patrick's cathedral. In developing the masterplan, the team will explore ways in which to celebrate one of the city's most renowned satirists.



From John Rocque's map of Dublin (1756).



Hanlon's engraving of Jonathan Swift's birthplace.

OPW'S FORMER LABOUR EXCHANGE BUILDING

Much of Hoey's Court was demolished in the 19th century with the remainder of the eastern end of the street cleared to make way for one of the Free State's earliest purpose-built unemployment exchanges, dating from 1941–3. Constructed during the Emergency, this is an interesting building of itself: created using a series

of queen post trusses made from pre-cast concrete laid on the concrete floor of the building and raised into position, reflective of the national timber and steel shortages at that time. Among the tasks set for the masterplan is to explore options for the demolition of this building versus its retention and repurposing. Whilst hemmed in and constrained within a back land site and perhaps with not the most attractive façade, its clerestory windows and rooflights create a welcoming interior space, adaptable for a multitude of purposes.

CITY WALL

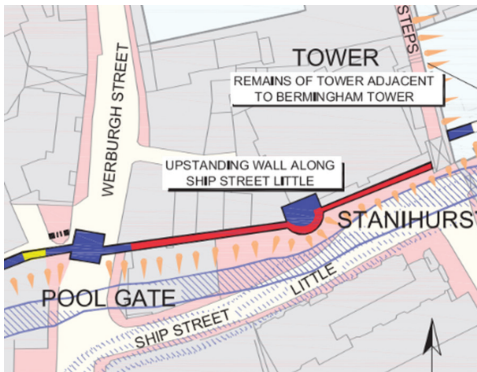
An 83-metre section of the old city wall runs along Ship Street Little between Werburgh Street and the western gate of Dublin castle. Dating from the 12th century, this wall stands four metres high at its western end. The eastern part nearest to the castle has been substantially refaced. Later interventions elsewhere reflect its use as a garden wall or as a bookend to later buildings, taking it to a height of seven metres in parts.

The city walls originally crossed Werburgh Street, where once stood the Pool gate controlling access to the medieval city.

Inside the former Labour Exchange building.



A stretch of the medieval wall also survives underground on the west side of Werburgh Street. It connects to the medieval Genevel's tower, located beneath the carpark of the Christ Church View apartments north of Ross Road.



City wall from Pool gate to Dublin castle.

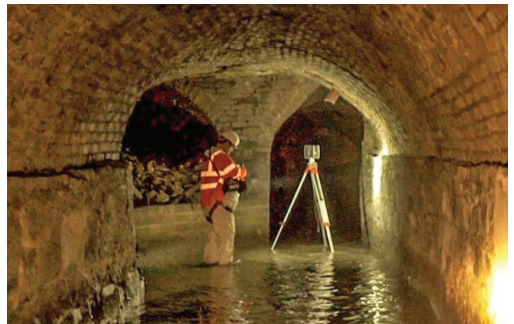
The design team will examine how to conserve and present the city wall in the public realm and create a visual east-west link across Werburgh Street. A higher-level walkway will also be sought offering the public a new perspective of this important national monument. Some essential safety works are proposed to take place to the

Patchwork of different masonry and building phases of west section of city wall with propping in place to safeguard the structure.

wall later this year, along with exploratory opening-up to allow for analysis to best inform how to conserve and present the wall for future generations.

RIVER PODDLE

Just south, outside the city wall, runs the River Poddle, located in a Victorian brick arched tunnel. This culvert fills at high tides from the River Liffey. The River Poddle once played a major role in the social and economic growth of Dublin City, serving approximately 52 mills and commercial enterprises, one of which is believed to have been located on the site of the proposed new public space. Options for expressing the mill and the river Poddle will be looked at in the design of the new public space.



River Poddle in Victorian brick culvert.





St Werburgh's church.

ST WERBURGH'S CHURCH & GRAVEYARD

St Werburgh's church is a significant architectural landmark on Werburgh Street and a monument of national importance. It forms part of a group of buildings that include the former parochial school (now the Christ Church deanery).

Recorded here since 1178, St Werburgh's has a prestigious medieval foundation with strong ties to Dublin castle. The building is one of the oldest surviving parish churches in Dublin and a remarkable selection of manuscript materials survive including the medieval parish deeds (edited by H.F. Berry, later Twiss, in 1915 and 1919), and the churchwardens', or more correctly, the proctors' accounts (edited first by former clerical vicar and later archdeacon, J.L. Robinson in 1913 and, later, by the former precentor of the cathedral, Adrian Empey in 2009).

The church burned down and was rebuilt several times over the centuries. The current structure dates from 1719 and the interior and front façade were rebuilt following a fire in 1754. To the rear of the church lies the graveyard which is the only surviving enclosed medieval graveyard within the city walls.

In recent years the city council teamed up with the Church of Ireland to devise a plan to help conserve the fabric of this important structure and to explore options for its use as a new cultural and arts space within the city. The plans for this repurposing are currently going through the planning process (submissions from the public closed 28 July 2025). In addition, the city council commissioned a conservation

management plan for the graveyard, including a survey of all upstanding memorials, the latter of which can be found online at www.historicgraves.com.

In preparing the masterplan, the design team prepared a stage 1 report which captures the essential background information on this city block, and this can be found online on the City Council's website at:

<https://www.dublincity.ie/planning-and-land-use/learn-about-councils-plans-city/local-area-plans-and-masterplans-change-name/werburgh-masterplan>

The website and report also contain further details on the archaeological site investigations that took place earlier this year at various locations throughout the masterplan area, used to inform the design approach.

As the design for the block and the new public open space progresses, consultations with the public will be invited. It is anticipated that the design for the new public open space will go through planning in 2026, with repair works to the city wall planned for 2027, in time for the Year of the Normans!



Above: Image of Masterplan area showing key features.

Left: Early test models generated to explore options, from the Stage 1 report. These will be explored and developed during Step 2 as the design progresses.





MUSIC UPDATE

Tom Little

ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The sleepy summer months offer the cathedral choir some respite from the busy terms so far during the year. The Candlemas procession in February seems a long way off now, but is always a low-lit high-light of the year. The same month we were glad to install the Revd Suzanne Harris and Canon Paul Arbuthnot as members of the chapter, and warm thanks also go to Canon Paul for his dulcet intoning at evensong over the past months. Easter offered a reflective week to which the choir contributed to a great number of services, which concluded on Easter morning with a rousing rendition of Vierne's *Messe Solennelle* and William Walton's *Coronation Te Deum* with trumpets and timpani, with Howell's *St Paul's service* and the 'Easter Hymn' from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* in the afternoon.

We are also delighted that there is such a rich musical life in the cathedral, and much gratitude goes to James Short, our assistant organist and director of music, for all his playing through the year. You can read more about our organ recitals and students elsewhere from him. Twm Watkins has also done excellent work with the Community Chorus and schools, which he has also written up here too, and a big thank you also goes to the Past Choristers', chaired by Anthea Seager, the activities of which have been recorded by Lesley-Anne Carey. As reported also in the recently published cathedral *Annual report 2024*, the cathedral girls' choir has also been rebuilt and now numbers some 20 members.

In the cathedral choir there were some musical movements within and without. Emma-Jane Stoker-Phelan, and her husband, Garrett Farrell, alto and bass lay vicars respectively, who have given many years of loyal service to the cathedral choir, left in April, and their social and musical contributions will be greatly missed. Laura Howes, a soprano choral scholar, has descended to the murky depths of the back row to sing as an alto lay vicar choral, where her contribution is greatly appreciated. We also welcome Eleanor Murchan to the choir, who is a doctor and organist.

Congratulations also to six past choristers: Aisling Kenny, Sarah Keating, Eilis Dexter, Laura Lamph, Sarah Luttrell and Sarah Thursfield, and two current choir members: Stuart Kinsella and Michael McCartan, who make up a fifth of the forty-two strong

choir singing Handel's *Alexander Feast* with the Irish Baroque Orchestra in the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday

BBC Proms

30 August (broadcast at 19.30 on BBC Radio 3). It is rare for groups from the Republic to perform at the BBC Proms. The choral group, Anúna, performed there in 1999, while the last orchestra was in New Irish Chamber Orchestra in 1979!

Facing page – top left: James Short & Vinicius Franco de Camargo at Belfast City Hall; top right: Befrocked ladies of the cathedral choir in the music room after Laura Joy's wedding; bottom (left to right): Former and current lay vicars choral, Sarah Luttrell & Hannah Barrett, the groom Rónán Kelly, & bride Laura Joy Kelly née Copeland, & her sister, Emer Kenny.



We were delighted to learn that our talented organist, James Short, married Vinicius 'Vini' Franco de Camargo on Wednesday 28 May in a ceremony at Belfast City Hall. There were matrimonial moves afoot in the cathedral choir too, when our stalwart alto, Laura-Joy Copeland, tied the knot with Rónán Kelly on Friday 18 July, and the cathedral choir was delighted to sing for the wedding, as well as to dance into the small hours of the morning celebrating. Warmest congratulations to both couples.

Lastly, we extend our gratitude to the many choirs that have embellished our worship over the summer months of July and August when the cathedral choir was away. This has included the Sunday services sung by the University of Leeds Chamber Choir (6 July), Thursday evensong

sung by the Girls' Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa (10 July) and the King's Voices of King's College, Cambridge (24 July) and Sunday services sung by the choir of King's College, London (27 July). Local groups have also made sterling contributions with both Sunday services sung by the choir of St Paul's Glenageary (20 July), the new group, Lux Brumalis, directed by bass lay vicar choral, David Yau (17 August), as well as the Past Choristers (31 August), with a consort of the cathedral choir singing several intervening Sunday mornings. Many thanks to all for giving up their time to enhance the cathedral liturgy through their conducting, playing, and singing.

We look forward to singing for the congregation once again in September, refreshed for a new term.

Below: Lux Brumalis, directed by David Yau, photographed after evensong.





ORGAN OCCUPATIONS

James Short

ASSISTANT ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

This year saw our third annual spring organ recital series, now a regular fixture in the cathedral's calendar. On Monday evenings at 6.00pm in May and June we welcomed organists from Dublin and beyond to perform to an ever-growing audience of visitors and stalwart enthusiasts alike. This year's recital series saw special guests James Gough (assistant organist of Southwark cathedral) and Luke Bond (assistant director of music of St George's chapel, Windsor) demonstrate their skill in two fabulous recitals. We were glad to welcome back Arthur Greene, former organ scholar (2021-3), and enjoyed performances by our very own cathedral organists.

Since arriving at Christ Church, I have also been determined to encourage keen young musicians to try out the organ, an opportunity that not many have the chance to experience! For the past two years the cathedral has kindly offered free organ lessons to two promising students under the age of eighteen. After generating interest through a series of organ open days, we auditioned several applicants for the program. Elliot Warnock (Co. Dublin) and Gavin Lawrence (Co. Westmeath) have been attending services and lessons regularly and assisting me in the organ loft. They have made terrific progress, and their enthusiasm and commitment has been most impressive. Their hard work has paid off and I'm delighted that Gavin, from St Sinian's church in Tyrrellspass, won third prize in the intermediate category of the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition (held annually at the Church of Ireland, St Patrick's cathedral in Armagh) on Tuesday 12 August. He played music by J.S. Bach, Guilmannt and Boëllmann. Gavin takes home a well-earned prize of £200 and commendations from the judges: Simon Harden (Organist of Christ Church cathedral, Waterford) and Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin (Co-Titular organist of St Sulpice in Paris). Congratulations!



Top: Organ recital poster. Bottom: James Short (left) and Gavin Lawrence, aged 17.



MUSIC ENGAGEMENT: SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY CHORUS

Tomos Watkins

CATHEDRAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

It has been an exciting term for musical outreach and community-building here at Christ Church. Pupils participating in our Schools Singing programme and the Community Chorus were hard at work from January preparing for their concerts. The first event to take place was the chorus's performance of Henry Purcell's opera, *Dido and Aeneas*. This tragic love story casts the chorus variously as courtiers, witches, sailors, and spectators to the drama unfolding in front of them. We were joined by a fabulous cast of Christ Church soloists: Éilis Dexter (*Dido*), who sang with the cathedral choir (2020-4); Michael McCartan (*Aeneas*), who has been a member of the choir since 2000; Sarah Thursfield (*Sorceress*), also a former lay vicar from Christ Church (2016-20), and Sofia Kirwan-Baez (*Belinda*), a 'Rising Star' with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, who has sung with the cathedral choir on three occasions before. Cast, orchestra, and choir gave a colourful performance to a packed nave.

Next on the roster was our schools' concert on 13 May. Pupils from national schools in Springdale; St Laurence's, Chapelizod; St Catherine's, and Rathfarnham parish took part and gave energetic performances of a variety of sea shanties and songs from *Ex Cathedra's* education programme repertoire. They were joined by the cathedral choir, who enjoyed a departure from their usual repertoire to perform 'My song is a good song' and 'Boom! said the cat,' two of the childrens' favourites,

as well as a few items by themselves. The concert was attended by around 150 pupils, and again, it was a delight to see the nave so full of performers and audience members.

We trialled a new initiative during 'Culture Date for Dublin 8' in May: the Dublin 8 Festival Chorus. Meeting over three evenings to rehearse from scratch, we invited newcomers to form a choir, before performing at a thanksgiving celebration on Sunday afternoon. Many of the participating singers have now joined the Community Chorus permanently as a result. Lastly, the community chorus also returned for the summer term, preparing a variety of summery pieces for the community soirée amidst scaffolding on Wednesday 2 July for an entertaining evening. Do join us in September!

Dido & Aeneas soloists: Michael McCartan, Éilis Dexter, Sofia Kirwan-Baez and Sarah Thursfield.





*Top left: Participants in the Dublin 8 Festival Chorus,
left to right: Debbie Hand, Betty Woods, Siobhán
Lynam and Vinnie Woods.*

Top lower left: Dido & Aeneas performance.

Above right: Twm Watkins conducting Dido & Aeneas.

Below: Summer soirée amidst the scaffolding.





PAST CHORISTERS' NEWS

Lesley-Anne Carey
PAST CHORISTER COMMITTEE MEMBER

The Past Choristers' Association has had a busy and exciting few months as we ran a number of very successful fundraising events – some tried and tested and some new and innovative – and took part in several choral reunion events.

Our first new event for 2025 took place in the cathedral nave on Friday 31 January, where we were cordially invited to *A Night at the Movies*. This was a very special evening where current cathedral choir member, Judith Lyons (soprano), accompanied by past chorister, Judith Gannon (piano) treated us to all our favourite film and theatre songs brought



*Judith Lyons (soprano) and Judith Gannon (piano)
for A Night at the Movies.*

to life with style. This event was very well attended, with many familiar faces from the Friends in the audience. We look forward to hearing more from our two very talented Judiths in the future.



*The winning table quiz team: Robert Giles,
Patsy McCaughey, Killian Barry and Tim Gill.*

At our last AGM the association voted to expand our membership to include members of the wider cathedral community within the organisation, and it is therefore perhaps unsurprising that our 2025 table quiz was the most successful yet. It was held on Monday 3 March in the cathedral crypt and a record twenty-two teams took part – so many avid quizzers were present it was almost impossible to fit everyone in! Cathedral Music Outreach Coordinator, Tomos Watkins, acted as quizmaster and competition was ferocious as usual. This year it was a team comprising past and present teachers of the High School in Rathgar: Robert Giles, Patsy McCaughey, Killian Barry and Tim Gill, who emerged victorious. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make the evening a success, especially the cathedral event staff who set the crypt up beautifully,



Gowns in town for the Pride and Prejudice screening: Anthea Seagar (Past Choristers' chairperson), Kayleigh Ferguson and Margaret Dee from the Community Chorus, and current lay vicars choral, Iseult Law (soprano) and Laura Howes (alto).

really adding to the atmosphere of the evening. The quiz will run again next year in February/March 2026 and all members of the Friends are always warmly invited to attend.

Our second new departure for 2025 took place over three Monday evenings in March/April, where the entirety of the BBC's 1995 adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* was shown in the

beautiful surroundings of the cathedral music room. This was also a resounding success with all those in attendance very much appreciating how the ambiance of the cathedral added to the elegance of the adaptation, especially those wearing period costumes, willingly provided by our own chairperson and Jane Austen enthusiast, Anthea Seagar, and current soprano lay vicar choral, Iseult Law. We hope to run similar events in the future so do keep an eye on the cathedral website for details.

On Trinity Sunday (15 June) we held our annual reunion evensong in collaboration with the current cathedral choir. Directed by former acting musical director, Judith Gannon, accompanied by James Short on the organ and with director of music, Tom Little

in the alto section, music included Howell's *St Paul's service* and the *Hymn to St Cecilia* by the same composer. Though numbers were slightly reduced this year due to members being ill with covid, and Fathers' Day and Trinity Sunday being on the same date, the afternoon was very enjoyable for all involved and it was wonderful to be reunited with so many friends both in the choir and in the congregation.

Past choristers from Christ Church were also delighted to be invited to sing two services in St Patrick's cathedral on Sunday 20 July. Hosted by our friends in the St Patrick's Cathedral Past Choristers' and Pupils' Association and directed by the prebendary of St Audoen's and succentor, Canon David Oxley, with master of the music, Stuart Nicholson, on the organ, the music included Darke *Communion service in F*, Bruckner's *Locus Iste*, Stanford's *Evening service in B flat* and Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*. It was a privilege to take part in such a well-organised and well-attended event and we look forward to hosting our friends from St Patrick's in Christ Church cathedral very soon.

Looking to the future, our next big event will be our annual summer reunion where we will sing the Eucharist and Evensong in the cathedral on Sunday 31 August during the cathedral choir's summer recess. We will also hold our annual AGM during this event. All past cathedral and girls' choir members are invited to take part and this event is always extremely enjoyable for everyone involved. We would encourage everyone who is interested in the work of the Past Choristers Association to join our mailing list by emailing pastchoristers@christchurch.ie or to subscribe to the organisation by visiting christchurchcathedral.ie/past-choristers-association.



Joint Christ Church & St Patrick's Past Choristers at St Patrick's.



BELFRY BRIEFING

Raymond Cregan
RINGING MASTER

A ringing master's work is never done, and this is a potted assemblage of recent belfry activity. The main work of the bell ringers is, of course, to ring for the services, literally the call to pray, primarily on Sundays, but also for other special occasions such as when the tenor was tolled on Saturday 26 April after the death of Pope Francis. Rising bell ringers Clare O'Dwyer & Chris O'Sullivan were delighted to be amongst those who participated. Special ringing also took place for the Pride evensong on Friday 13 June. While Saturday mornings are for basic bell handling, our Friday practice evening slot at 18.30 is essential to ensure both that regulars have enough time to practice ringing methods and call changes, and that new ringers can catch the campanological bug.

The bells are well exercised during the week from the quotidian visits of tourists who tinkle the lightest three blind mice bells that hang harmlessly mouth down, but there have also been some opportunities during the year for bell ringers to demonstrate the proper technique of full-circle ringing to an eager public with a view to recruiting new members, an essential and ongoing part of the belfry's fascinating and rather antique form of outreach. These have included the

Liberties Festival (Thursday 24 – Saturday 26 July) and Heritage Week (Saturday 16 August), when Michael Ryan and I have respectively presided.

Competitions are another way of keeping standards up and giving beginners a target to aim for, and Christ Church finished second to Hillsborough in the Boyne cup held at St Peter's church in Drogheda on Saturday 1 February. At the Lindoff cup held on Saturday 8 March in St Saviour's in Arklow at the AGM of the Eastern District of the Irish Association of Change Ringers, the cathedral team came third out of a



Ringing for the Pride evensong.

total of eight teams. We also sported new shirts designed by Venetia Ellis with initial designs by Nicole Lanphier and Andrew Nolan, embroidered with the 'foxy friars' and cathedral crest and cleverly surrounded by the method, Christ Church



Above: Attending the Boyne cup at St Peter's Drogheda.

Below: Ringing at the Lindoff cup in St Saviour's Arklow with new shirts.



Dublin Differential Doubles, devised by former ringing master, Gary McGuire. The only slightly less competitive Taylor cup (in memory of Leslie Taylor) was up for grabs in the cathedral tower on Saturday 9 August, and was won by a team captained by Helen Little, ringing master of Christ Church, Taney. Our next foray is the 5th annual Galbraith cup in Christ Church Taney (Saturday 30 August).

The highpoint of such campanological activity is when the tower is fortunate to witness the ringing of peals (almost 4 hours long) or quarter peals (usually a more manageable three quarters of an hour). Two quarter peals were rung so far this year. The first was rung by the Sheffield Universities Guild of Change Ringers on Thursday 10 April on their 2025 tour of Ireland, which was a quarter peal of 1371 Plain Bob Doubles in 46 minutes (10–3–13 in F#, which identifies the tenor sounding an F# weighing 10cwt, 3qtrs, 13lbs), composed by Alan Rowe, and conducted by Logan T.S. Anderson, and was not only the first time one of the ringers rang 'inside', but the first time four of the team had rung outside England. Given the location, they also rang a short 3-minute touch of 96 Double Dublin Surprise Major, which were the first blows of this method for the whole team. Then on Sunday 25 May, a team of more familiar names rang a quarter peal of 1320 Cambridge Surprise Minor in 48 minutes, conducted by Gary McGuire (his first Surprise conducting) in 48m (10–3–13 in F#) including Andrew Nolan (his first time treble bobbing) and two ringers from St Patrick's: Peter McBride, the organist of St Joseph's, Terenure, and Will Bosworth, a tenor lay vicar choral at St Patrick's, who is also the Dublin-resident editor of the weekly magazine, Ringing World. Billy Clarke, who

was virtually raised in Christ Church's tower by Leslie Taylor, returned from England, and was joined by his partner, Rachel Titmuss, to make up the full team.

The belfry not only saw many visitors, but the bell ringers went on a few trips ourselves too. On Saturday 19 July, a small team rang the bells of St Mary's in Doneraile, which were rehung in 2023 making them far easier to ring. Local Rachel Wharton, who now rings in Christ Church, was on hand to make everyone feel at home. Nigel Pelow paid a visit to former tower secretary, Sara Martin in her native Segovia, north-west of Madrid in July, while ringers from Christ Church also visited St Saviour's church in Arklow to give the recently restored bells a test run on Sunday 17 August.

Nigel Pelow visiting Sara Martin and her family in Segovia.



Not everything relates directly to bell ringing. The ringers held a 'tea day' at Christ Church in aid of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland on Thursday 1 May, and sometimes belfry activity is simply routine maintenance, such as the replacement of broken stays (which hold the bells mouth-up ready for ringing). Since the retirement of horologist, Julian Cosby, the dean, Xavier Maher and myself have looked after the clock which ticks away in the tower, sounding the hours through the night as well as the quarters during the day.

Looking ahead, I will give an 'Up the Belfry' tour for the Friends' first Tuesday tours on 2 September at 1.30pm, and later in the month, also two tower tours as part of Culture Night (Friday 19 September). A little way off in the future, the next Eastern District practice to be held at Christ Church will be on Saturday 13 December 2025, but for those preferring the past, in the following article, David Taylor recounts some belfry days of yore!



Above: Trip to St Mary's Doneraile.

Below: Taylor cup participants in the cathedral tower.





BELFRY REMINISCENCE: AT FIRST BELL

David H.T. Taylor

RINGING MASTER (1966–77)

Some day I will recount my introduction to the life of a CCC galley slave, i.e. boy chorister, and how I became institutionalised, but now I want to focus on bells, big bells.

After the shelling of the Four Courts in 1922 the cathedral school in John's Lane East was considered unsafe, or so I was told about fifty years later. So, by the time when I was a reluctant scholar the Choir / Grammar School had repurposed various rooms and corridors in the chapter house and the synod hall, as classrooms. It was at an interrupted Latin language session in 1961, in what was then called the music room, now the Henry Roe, that I first became aware that the cathedral had bells that were rung by a team of people. By the way, *interrupted* and *session* both derive from Latin. Maybe I learned a little.

Anyway, despite the fact that our schoolboy ears were always pricked to the sound of the bells chiming the hour and the quarter-hours, signalling permission to raise our backsides from the wooden chairs and hare off to receive the next, differently located, loosely department-of-education-inspired dollop of knowledge being imparted by a teacher untrained in riot control, we did not know that the bells were not fully mechanical.

The welcome interruption that afternoon was a little talk by a man named George Malone who told us that, yes, indeed, the cathedral possessed magnificent bells that were skilfully manually controlled by people using long ropes. My career as a soprano on Decani was over by then and I

and a few others volunteered to sample the experience.

Then began, for me, a lifetime of ringing. Well, that's not quite true. It took me a long, long time to learn how to ring a bell. I was awkward. I'd never needed to do anything manual up to that moment and, at home, I wasn't even trusted to cut a slice of bread. So, for session after session, the mildest, most patient person I had ever met, Edward (Ted) Cathalin, instructed me as I over-pulled, under-pulled and generally mismanaged a bell rope. Fortunately, Ted, a past-chorister from an earlier generation, was an enthusiastic amateur woodworker. He needed to like doing carpentry repairs because I broke several stays and a slider before it was safe to let me ring unattended. I was a dreadful trainee but Ted never told me to go and try another hobby.

A stay is a long piece of shaped ash that is attached to a bell's headstock. Its purpose is to allow the bell to be stopped (stayed) upside-down ready for full-circle ringing. The stay engages a slider which moves according to whether the bell is set on hand- or back-stroke. The slider that I broke was a skilfully curved piece of wood not easily repaired. Needless to say, I was totally unaware of my trail of destruction.

Other people learned more easily than I did. However, I just kept turning up. Eventually, when I was about 16, I noticed that the practices were also being attended by young people from TCD, some of them female, so I stayed. Still my progress was really slow. I do not know how long I was there ringing only backstroke but a chemistry student eventually took over my training and got me ringing both strokes. He also showed me the



Above, pictured around New Year 1969-70 (left to right): Patricia Coady, Vivienne Coates (†), Joyce Coates, Lesley Coady (later Rue), Ann Franklin (later Taylor), Joan Coady, Doreen Croly (later Franklin), Eilish O'Connor, Sandra Seymour (later Boggle), Leslie Taylor, David Franklin, Nigel Pelow, David Taylor.

Blue Line (diagram) for Grandsire Doubles, thus demystifying change ringing and making me realise that I did not have to memorise reams of sequences. It took him about two minutes to impart that it was just a matter of know-how and practise, not rocket science, although I have no doubt that rocket science would have been easy for him because he went on to develop medicines for AIDS. Anyway, he lifted me over the hurdle.

Roll on a few years and the other boys who had started learning contemporaneously with me had moved on to other pursuits. I remained. I also practised in the place at the bottom of the hill and occasionally rang in John's Lane. The ringing on Sundays in CCC usually comprised Grandsire Triples but if there were just five change ringers and a few others we rang doubles using 12357 with 468 cover.

During the next few years the senior ringers gradually succumbed to the infirmities of age. At a meeting at which I was not present they decided to ask me to take charge of the belfry. They felt that a young person, as I then was, could 'make

a go of it'. So, I started all over again at the age of 19 or 20, doing as George Malone and Ted Cathalin had before me, seeking recruits in the cathedral school. I got a few, and one called Nigel Pelow is a ringer to this day (indeed ringing master, 1986-96 & 2014-22). As another tranche of boys came along they brought girlfriends and sisters too

and eventually there seemed to be dozens of young learners. Nowadays it would not be possible to have so many young people without complicated safeguarding procedures being in place. Today recruits are of all ages and backgrounds. It is a matter of '*O tempora, o mores*'. I fear I'm stuck in 1961.

Leslie Taylor, Nigel Pelow, Oliver Clune and David Taylor in the bell chamber (1977).





EDUCATION UPDATE

Dr Ruth Kenny

HEAD OF LEARNING & INTERPRETATION

ACCESS

Following the cathedral Access Audit which took place last autumn, we are now putting our phased, prioritised access plan into action. Professionally printed large print guides in the cathedral brand are now available at the Welcome Desk, alongside our offering of leaflets in thirteen different languages. A ramp for the southwest door has been commissioned and is due to be installed in the coming weeks. Handrails for the steps down to the chapter house door and for the Cross door are also in train, as is a proper set of steps with a handrail for the lectern. Work has also started on a more detailed access page for the cathedral website, and the scheduling of regular in-person Irish Sign Language (ISL) and audio-descriptive guided tours. Our access focus group is due to reconvene in October to assess progress so far.

WORKSHOPS

On Saturday 8 February we welcomed artist Tunde Toth back to Christ Church for a day of print-making. She facilitated two very enjoyable sessions for us – one for adults in the morning and one for children in the afternoon. Participants went home with beautiful prints inspired by our floor tiles.

Alan Nolan also ran a fun and very well-attended children's comic-making workshop for us on Saturday 17 May, inspired by our historical building and characters. After a tour of the crypt, participants were invited to create their own comic characters based on the historical stories they had heard.



A tile-making workshop in the south transept.

In addition, monthly drop-in Saturday workshops for visitors began at the end of April and have been running with great success throughout the spring and summer. They are facilitated by trained Welcome Desk staff and alternate between making stained glass suncatchers and decorative tiles. These workshops are included in the price of cathedral admission, with the aim of adding to the visitor experience and providing a novel way for people to interact with our beautiful building. Feedback from the workshops has been excellent, with 30-40 people attending each session.

CONTESTED HISTORIES

We are delighted to report that our application to Trinity College Dublin for a Long Room Hub short-term fellowship for Dr Greg Sullivan, previously co-lead of the 'Pantheons' project at St Paul's cathedral in London, has been successful. This follows

on from the 'Contested Histories' seminar and public lecture which Dr Sullivan gave for us last year. These sessions considered the cathedral's monuments collection in the context of the current wider debate over public sculpture, with a view to shaping a future policy and interpretation plan for Christ Church. The fellowship, running from the start of September to the end of November, will allow Dr Sullivan to come back for a concentrated period of research and collaboration. The project will draw together imperial history, church history, art history, military history and the history of materiality, and engage with the public discourse on contested history and colonial history in monumental art.

CULTURE DATE WITH DUBLIN 8 & LIBERTIES FESTIVAL

We once again collaborated with local festival 'Culture Date with Dublin 8' in May. Over five days, our timetable of



Dr Greg Sullivan will examine contested histories of cathedral monuments.

events included yoga in the nave, a 'Rats & Rascals' tour, a family monks' tour, a special tower tour and an organ recital. We also took part in the Liberties Festival in July with 'Crypt to Crypt' tours between Christ Church and St Michan's, and a number of bell-ringing sessions. We look forward to Heritage Week in August, and Open House and the Dublin Festival of History in October, for which we have secured the author Amy Jeffs to come and give a talk, with musical accompaniment, inspired by her recent Saints book. Calligrapher Timothy O'Neill will also run a 'Decorating Medieval Manuscripts' workshop.

CATHEDRALS PLUS CONFERENCE 2026

We are delighted to announce that we will be co-hosting the annual Cathedrals Plus conference in January 2026 with St Patrick's cathedral. This conference is for education and visitor services staff at cathedrals across the UK and Ireland and a great programme of events is already shaping up.

Kelly Tavalassi by the old chapter house leading the monks' tour.





CATHEDRAL CONSERVATION

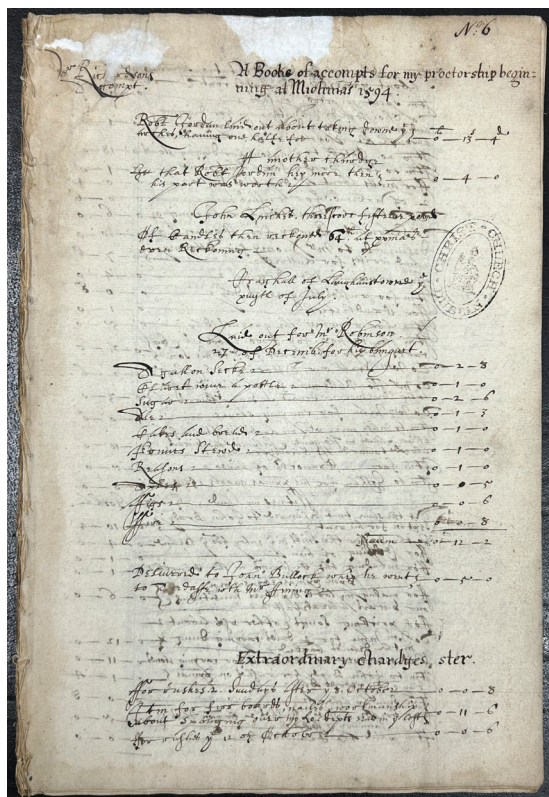
Dr Raymond Refaüssé
HONORARY KEEPER OF THE ARCHIVES

One of the responsibilities of the History, Learning and Research Committee is to ensure that the various heritage objects in the keeping of the cathedral are appropriately cared for. This requires a conservation strategy which regularly monitors the condition of the objects and, when appropriate, commissions professional conservators to make good the ravages of time.

The items most at risk are those which are on continuous exhibition, especially the manuscripts in the Treasury. Currently the 14th-century *Liber Niger*, early 16th-century *Liber Albus* and the Book of Benefactions which records gifts to Christ Church between 1668 and 1680, are on exhibition. The condition of these manuscripts is checked twice a year by the conservator, Dr John Gillis, and, to allow the bindings of the books to relax, they are closed for a period from just before Christmas until the beginning of February.

An important aspect of a conservation strategy is a disaster plan – what to do in the event of fire, flood, earthquake or whatever. A policy to evacuate the cathedral's heritage items in the event of an emergency is being developed by Dr Ruth Kenny. This has involved identifying each object, photographing it, noting its location, and creating an order of priority for evacuation. As part of this strategy Dr Gillis has been commissioned to provide purpose made phase boxes in which the manuscripts on exhibition in the Treasury can be evacuated.

Most of the cathedral's archives have been transferred to the Representative Church Body Library in Churchtown where they are stored in optimum conditions, catalogued and made available to researchers. Some of the volumes are badly degraded as a result of the passage of time and of inadequate storage in the cathedral. We have agreed with the library to contribute, on an ongoing basis, to the conservation of these items. Last year a guard book,



Above: The proctor's accounts of Mr Richardson for 1594–5 (RCB C6/1/26/3, no. 6) in the guard book containing proctors' accounts 1541–1668.



Above: A view of the restored model of the cathedral and synod hall in the crypt.

which contains accounts of the cathedral's proctors for the year 1541 to 1668 (RCB C6/1/26/3), was conserved by paper conservator, Liz D'Arcy.

One of the benefits of active conservation is, sometimes, to learn more about an object. For some years a cardboard model of the cathedral has been on exhibition in the Treasury. Last year it was agreed to have the model conserved by Liz D'Arcy. The result has been a splendidly revived model and, unexpectedly, some new information about it. We had believed the model dated from around the 1870s and was associated with Street's restoration of the building but the conservation revealed some internal evidence that dated the model to after 1897.

The largest conservation project is to clean and, where necessary, repair the older episcopal portraits and to conserve the frames. The older portraits were once hung in the See House at 16 St Stephen's Green, but when the archbishops moved to more manageable residences there was not sufficient wall space to hang all the

pictures. Some of the larger portraits were transferred to the Synod Hall and when it was closed they migrated to Christ Church. The surfaces of the older portraits are covered with years of grime and are more opaque than they should be due to old, darkened varnish. It has been agreed that in the run-up to the millennium celebrations in 2028, we will attempt to have one portrait conserved each year. A start has been made with conservation of the portrait of Archbishop Richard Whately which is the work of the celebrated 19th-century artist, Stephen Catterson Smith the elder, who was the leading portrait painter in Ireland in his day. The portrait has been cleaned and repaired by picture restorer, Ciara Brennan, and the frame has been repaired by gilder, Cresten Doherty. The picture has been re-hung in the music room where it is a splendid addition to this most atmospheric space. Currently a portrait of Archbishop Francis Marsh is being conserved. If, as we believe to be the case, it is a contemporary portrait, then it is the oldest in the cathedral (Marsh was archbishop from 1682 until 1693) and one of the largest. When the

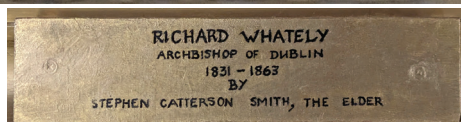
work is completed, it will be re-hung in the music room. The next portrait which has been scheduled for conservation is that of Archbishop Narcissus Marsh which is hung in the CEO's office. An early 20th-century photograph shows the archbishop sitting before a large book case, but the picture is

so dark that this background detail is almost invisible. So we look forward to being able to see it again.

The portrait conservation programme is being funded entirely by the cathedral but expressions of interest in supporting this project would be welcome.



View of Catterson Smith's restored portrait of Archbishop Whately, with inset name plate detail.





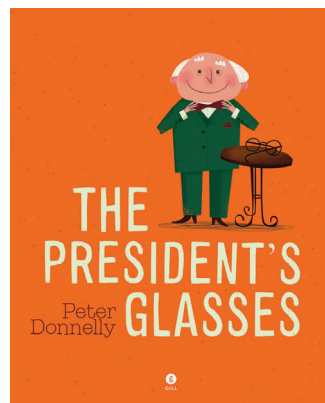
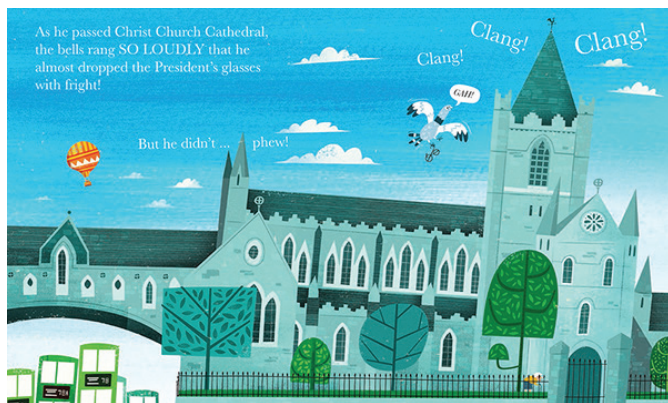
PRINCES TO PRESIDENTS: CROWN & STATE AT CHRIST CHURCH

Dr Stuart Kinsella

RESEARCH ADVISOR & EDITOR OF *FRIENDS' NEWS*

The cover of this issue features a loyal pigeon flying over Christ Church trying to deliver to President Michael D. Higgins his glasses so that he can sign important documents at Dublin castle, in an endearing drawing by Peter Donnelly for his children's book *The President's Glasses* (2018). As we approach the presidential election before the inauguration on 11 November, it is perhaps timely to look at the association of the cathedral with monarchs and magnates, premiers and presidents through its almost millennium-long history.

Ólafsson Silkiskeggi (silkenbeard) or Sitriuc in Irish, to Rome in 1028 with Flannacán Ua Ceallaigh, king of Brega, and his return the same year is traditionally viewed as marking the establishment of the cathedral and diocese. Sitriuc granted the cathedral not only its site within the city, but a grange to the northwest called Kealdulek, likely named for an association with St Doulagh's church in Balgriffin, but renamed by around 1179 to the more familiar Grange Gorman. The cathedral may even have served as a mausoleum for Sitriuc's Christian mother, Gormlaith, who died in 1030, famous for her marriages to Sitriuc's father, the king of Dublin, Amlaíb Cuarán,



Left: Christ Church featured in Peter Donnelly, The President's Glasses (2018).

Right: Cover of Peter Donnelly's book.

In 1577, Richard Stanihurst referred to the founder of the cathedral, in perhaps romanticised Elizabethan terms, as 'Sitricus, prince of Dublin', while contemporary sources more often referred to him as king of the foreigners (as the Norse Vikings were known in the Irish annals). The pilgrimage of Sigtryggr

and to two successive claimants to the high kingship, Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill and Brian Boru.

When the king of Leinster, Diarmait mac Máel na Bó of the Uí Cheinnselaig dynasty, took Dublin in 1052, he was the first of many claimants to the high kingship to install his own underking to rule Dublin. His

son, Murchad, ruled from 1054-70, and gave the cathedral its second grant of land: Lambay Island and Portrane in southern Brega (literally, Old Norse: *Lamb ey* for lamb island, or Irish: Reachrainn, and its port, Irish: Port Reachrann). Around 1088, another king of both Leinster and Dublin, Donnchad mac Domnaill



Obverse of coin noting Sitric, Rex Dyflin, minted close to the cathedral.

Remair, donated Clonkeen, known since the Reformation as Dean's grange. Other land grants in south county Dublin were given by sons of Thorkil, part of the 12th-century dynasty of mac Torcaill kings of Dublin.

It seems likely that Diarmait Mac Murchada, king of Leinster (1126-71) would have known Christ Church from his close connection with his brother-in-law, Lorcán Ua Tuathail, former abbot of Glendalough and later archbishop of Dublin, whose career he had facilitated. The archbishop was also uncle to Diarmait's daughter Aife, who married Strongbow, the ambitious Welsh baron, whose independent inclinations resulted in the first English king, Henry II, visiting Ireland and overwintering in Dublin in 1171. Although not mentioned by contemporary sources, it seems likely the king would have visited the cathedral at Christmas because he regranted and legalised the cathedral's land holdings following the conquest, in a foundation charter which was later rendered illegible when a storm in 1461 damaged cathedral muniments.

Strongbow was the king's representative from 1173 until his death. With his burial in a tomb in the nave in 1176 (within sight of a large rood just one bay west of the present screen), began an association

of the chief governors of Ireland with the cathedral variously titled justiciar, lord deputy, lord lieutenant or viceroy (Latin *vice*: in place of, French *roi*: king), and many of his successors included archbishops of Dublin who

acted as justiciars, namely Henry de Loundres

(1213-15, 1221-4), John de Sandford (1288-90) and Alexander de Bicknor (1318-19).

Another English king, Richard II, visited Dublin in 1394-5, and is supposed to have dubbed four Irish princes or kings in the cathedral as knights, according to

Four Irish kings swear obedience to King Richard II on his visit to Ireland, from the late 1450s Bruges atelier of Dutch book-illuminator, Willem Vrelant.

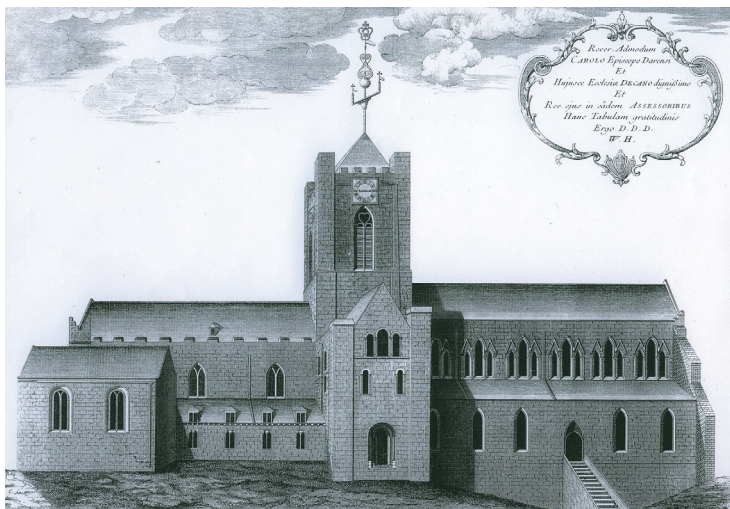


Froissart's chronicle of Henry Crystede's time in Ireland, where the cathedral is noted as founded by St John the Baptist! While the story is fictitious, some elements may be true, and the king did make three grants to the cathedral between 1393–5, all made in Dublin: one witnessed by the justiciar, James 'le Botiler', earl of Ormond, another by the lieutenant (again French *lieu*: in place of), Roger de Mortimer, earl of March and Ulster. These grants of seven shops in Trinity Lane (the street beneath the present cathedral bridge) and the church of Balgriffin were, unusually, held in frankalmoign, and may be the origin of the tradition of the cathedral choir singing a service for the court of the Exchequer which, remarkably, lasted until 1869.

cause for continued vice-regal activity at the cathedral. The same year, the freshly rejuvenated lady chapel was used for the swearing-in of Sir John Talbot as lord deputy before the Irish council, and again in 1420 for the fourth 'White' earl of Ormond in 1420. The cathedral was also the venue in 1441 when, before Ormond, as king's lieutenant, and the Irish council, Eóghan Ó Néill, king of Tír Eóghain (Tyrone) of Ulster swore to maintain the peace, on the cathedral's most famous relic, the Bachal Isu or staff of Christ.

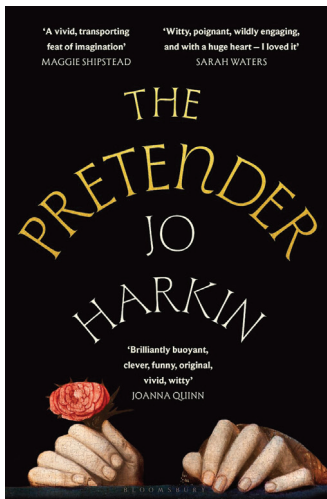
The two comital families of Butler Ormonds and Fitzgerald Kildares were long to joust for position at Christ Church, both personified in Elizabeth Fitzgerald, daughter of the fifth earl of Kildare and wife of James fourth earl of Ormond, who was remembered in the cathedral obits in 1452. The Kildares, whose second earl was remembered in the obits in 1328, and whose fourth earl donated land in 1353 and was buried in the chancel in 1390, were now on the rise, when the seventh earl was sworn in as lord deputy in front of the Irish council in the Lady chapel in 1461. Each of these earls was named Thomas Fitzgerald.

It was his successor, the eighth earl, Gearóid Mór Fitzgerald, whose long governorship (1478-1513) solidified the cathedral's vice-regal role. Not only were boys introduced to sing polyphony in 1480, but the cathedral was the venue for the elaborate coronation of Lambert Simnel as King Edward VI, a story retold in the new book by Jo Harkin, *The Pretender* (London & New York, 2025). Liturgy was also



Lady chapel (now the modern chapter house) on left (c.1739) in view from north by Jonas Blaymire, engraved by Guillaume d'Heulland.

It was probably as much the pitiful state of Dublin castle, as it was the newly restored condition of the Lady chapel, rededicated in 1414 by Bishop John Kelly of Down (with the permission of the then king's representative, the archbishop of Dublin, Thomas Cranley), that provided

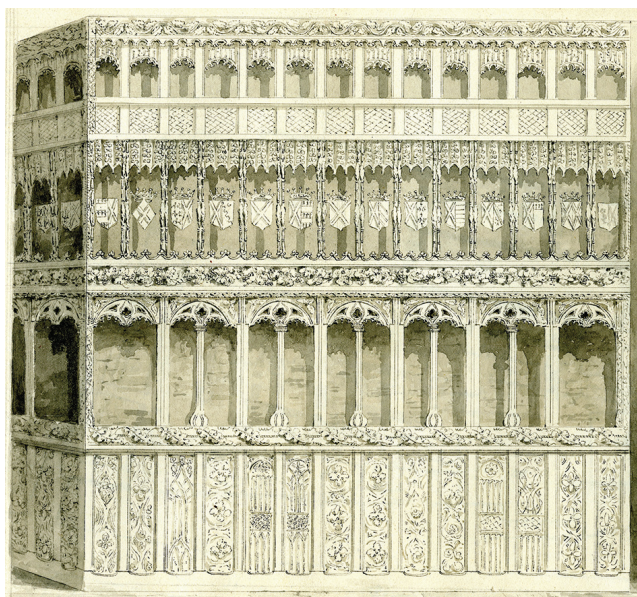


embellished by a brass lectern imported from East Anglia and vestments of gold cloth in lace or 'tussy' given by the earl in 1506. Monuments to the earl's entourage included one to Thomas Plunkett of

Kildare mausoleum (like St Canice's for the Ormonds), but as an informal Irish chapel royal.

Following the Reformation, as the old Augustinian prior and canons regular became the new secular dean and chapter, its liturgical space began to frame vice-regal ambitions, firstly through Henry Sidney, influential from 1557 and lord deputy largely from 1565–78, who erected at least three monuments in the cathedral. He was a newly minted member of the order of the Garter, and set about decorating the cathedral choir with the arms of his fellow Garter knights who included the king of France and the Holy Roman Emperor, perhaps even in the hope of an Irish royal visit from Elizabeth I, whose Windsor chapel of St George remains the seat of the order. Meanwhile the cathedral's liberty opened to the commercial activities of Dublin citizens and in 1608 the old cloistral buildings were leased to the crown on a 1000-year lease (it lasted 188) to host the Four Courts.

Dunsoghly who bequeathed gold and silver in 1514, and the arms of the Cusack and Warren families. The earl's final contribution was a wooden chantry chapel erected in 1512, the most elaborate piece of late Gothic art on record in Ireland, which marked the cathedral not only as a



Above: Early C19 reconstruction by Patrick Byrne of 1512 Kildare chantry chapel based on drawings in C17 'Monumenta Eblanae' (NLI, MS GO 15).

A lord deputy of perhaps greater ego than Sidney was Thomas Wentworth, remembered for his portraits by van Dyck and his incomplete palace of Jigginstown, Naas. After the chapel built by Wentworth in Dublin castle was damaged by fire in 1638, he decamped to Christ Church, where the liturgical music that year was enhanced accordingly with sackbuts and cornetts, and from 1638–9 the choir was refurbished with all the latest European fashions – Dutch tiles, elaborate plasterwork, including a gallery for the lord deputy with his pedigree decorating the wall behind him.

After the Restoration of King Charles II (1660–85), the choir was renovated three times in quick succession, the prime ones being in 1667–8 under Dean John Parry, and in 1677–8 under Dean

William Moreton by the surveyor general, William Robinson, of Royal Hospital Kilmainham fame. Both were supported by the king and the lord deputy, the first duke of Ormond, who coincidentally swept away the chantry chapel of his rival house of the Kildare Fitzgeralds. On 14 June 1672, Charles II went so far as to write to the lord lieutenant referring to Christ Church, with perhaps an unwise slip of the pen, as ‘our said cathedral church and royal chapel’. Two viceregal remnants may survive from this period: the arms of Charles II on the front of the presidential pew, likely carved and certainly gilded during Parry’s restoration, and then an unnoticed moulded surround above the crypt entrance featuring the side profile of a head adorned with wig and laurel within which, on comparison with coins of the day, might plausibly be identified as Charles II (or perhaps Ormond).

As the long eighteenth century rolled on, and the lord lieutenant could be found

attending St Patrick’s or St Werburgh’s (newly rebuilt in 1719 and again after a fire in 1754), the chapel royal status of Christ Church wore thin, and the final blow to the cathedral’s vice-regal pretensions was the building of a new neo-gothic chapel royal at Dublin castle by Francis Johnson in 1814. The attendance of King George IV at divine office at the cathedral on Sunday 19 August 1821 (for which the cathedral grounds were considerably cleared as part of the work of the Wide Streets Commissioners), must have been welcomed by the dean and chapter, but even further restoration work of the choir in 1831–3 and the nave and tower in 1842–6 by the local architect, Matthew Price, was insufficient to retain any viceregal lustre.

The Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1871 finally put an end to such aspirations with the separation of church and state but the restoration of Christ Church in 1871–8 could be seen as a defiant architectural response to it. Ironically, the work attracted a visit of the prime minister responsible for Disestablishment, W.E. Gladstone, on Saturday 20 October 1877, although it should be admitted that he was a close friend of the architect, G.E. Street, who had dedicated his book on Spanish

Possible mural tablet of King Charles II (1660-85) above crypt entrance.





President De Valera attending a Citizenship Service on 5 November 1972.

architecture to him in 1865. Viceregal traditions were not forgotten when, in 1882, Henry Roe restored the 'antient State or Royal seat'. The name of the viceroy at the time, John Poyntz Spencer. Fifth earl Spencer is inscribed on the pew which still bears the much older above-mentioned arms of Charles II. For another royal visit in 1900, Queen Victoria did not attend Christ Church, but choristers from both Christ Church and St Patrick's cathedrals sang for her in the private chapel of the viceregal lodge (now Áras an Uachtaráin) on Easter Sunday, 15 April.

Following Irish independence it was unsurprising if national leaders were unlikely to wish to be seen in a Church of Ireland cathedral with such long viceregal associations. These initially took the form of presidents of Dáil Éireann (1919–22) and of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State (1922–32), as well as crown appointed governors general (1922–36), but it seems likely that it was not until the appointment of Douglas Hyde, the first president of Ireland (1938–45), and a member of the Church of Ireland, that an Irish head of state would visit the cathedral again, attending, for example, on Christmas day, 1939. Over time attendance was once again possible, with other presidents

including Éamon de Valera (1959–73) at Dean Lewis-Crosby's innovative Citizenship service in 1972, and Erskine Childers (1973–4) at Christmastide 1973, when he gave a poetry reading based on an anthology entitled 'The City without walls' compiled by his grandmother, Margaret Osgood. Patrick Hillery (1978–90) similarly attended, for example, a service for the week of Christian Unity on

Sunday 17 January 1988.

The election of Mary Robinson as the first female president of Ireland (1990–7) reflected a modernising Ireland and, as well as attending the cathedral during her term of office, she later returned to preach on the prevention of climate chaos at an ecumenical service on Friday 11 December 2009. Mary McAleese's election as president (1997–2011) was noteworthy when, as a Roman Catholic, she caused controversy in receiving communion at the eucharist in the cathedral on Sunday 7 December 1997. In 2002, and not before time, Dean John Paterson, commissioned a fall with a gold harp on blue, the arms of

President Hillery attending service for Christian Unity on Sunday 17 January 1988.



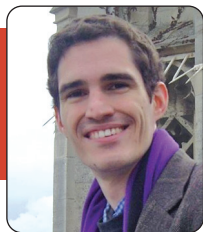


President McAleese, Archbishop Neill and Dean Paterson unveiling the new presidential fall on Thursday Thursday 24 October 2002.

Ireland since 1541, and of the president of Ireland since 1945, to hang over the arms of Charles II on the state pew for presidential visits. Two decades later, Dr McAleese became more closely involved in the cathedral when she was installed as a lay canon on Sunday 1 October 2017. President Michael D. Higgins (2011–25) attended the Dubliners' 50th anniversary tour at Christ Church as part of TradFest in January 2012, and again the next month on Thursday 2 February 2012 for an ecumenical service of solidarity for those feeling the pain of recession. Hopefully he found his glasses.

Our leaders and their manner of selection have changed considerably over the years, from weapon-hefting to lineally-inheriting, from crown-appointed to

democratically elected, as indeed have our institutions – Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, elected by the European Council, for example, who visited the cathedral on Saturday 29 October 2022, is arguably amongst Europe's financial royalty. But perhaps the founder of Christ Church would have been reassured to discover that the most recent monarch to visit the cathedral was from a line of kings that stretched back to the Vikings. At the lesser-known gala dinners hosted by the cathedral for the 74th Baden-Powell Fellowship on Saturday 23 April 2022, the chairman of the organisation was none other than the king of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustaf. Sitriuc may, however, have been surprised to discover that the king of a once Viking nation was now, in fact, a boy scout.



ST LAURENCE O'TOOLE AT 800

Dr Jesse Patrick Harrington

RESEARCH FELLOW, SCHOOL OF CELTIC STUDIES,
DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCE STUDIES

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the canonisation of St Lorcán Ó Tuathail (Laurence O'Toole, Laurent d'Eu, c.1128–80), medieval archbishop and patron of Christ Church cathedral and of the Dublin archdiocese.

In medieval European political, religious, and social history, St Lorcán was a towering figure. As a Gaelic royal dynast, abbot of Glendalough, archbishop of Dublin, and papal legate in Ireland, Lorcán's career placed him at the heart of two watershed moments in European and Irish history. The first was the twelfth-century church reform, which endeavoured to bring Christian religious practice in Ireland in line with contemporary norms in continental Europe, and which led to the introduction of the first medieval French religious orders and congregations in Ireland. The second was the English (or Anglo-Norman) invasion of 1169, led by the earl Richard de Clare (Strongbow) and later by the king Henry II of England, through which the English crown established a permanent foothold in Ireland for the first time. Famously, Lorcán was a brother-in-law of Diarmait Mac Murchada, king of Leinster,

and thus uncle to Aoife and Strongbow: a family connection which helped place the archbishop of Dublin in the central mediating position, as a peacemaker and powerbroker between the competing parties.

As diplomat and pastor for his city, his diocese, and his kingdom during this period of great change and conflict, Lorcán's activities brought him as far afield as Canterbury, Rouen, and Rome, often at considerable personal risk and in the face of violent opposition. His death and burial in the Norman city of Eu, Seine-Maritime, led to his eventual adoption as a Franco-Irish saint, a legacy which crosses cultural, national, and religious divides. Through his rich and varied life and legacy, Lorcán

symbolised an intense period of cultural interaction and transition in what it meant to be Irish, English, French, or Norman – as well as in what it meant to be Christian and European.



The tomb of St Laurence O'Toole in the crypt of the collegiate church (now parish church) of Notre-Dame-et-St-Laurent in Eu.

In the forty-five years after his death in 1180, there were no fewer than six efforts to have Lorcán declared a saint, which drew support from kings, bishops, knights, clergy, and ordinary people across Christendom. Efforts to gather the stories of his life and miracles

began in Ireland and in Eu around 1186, when his body was first moved from its simple burial to the crypt in Eu. A special role was later played by the abbots of Eu and the bishops of Cork, whose interventions and testimonies helped to convince Pope Honorius III to admit Lorcán as a saint in December 1225. Thus, Lorcán became only the second Irishman to be formally canonised as a saint and one of only two Irish churchmen of his century to be made the subject of a widely circulated biography by his contemporaries. The archbishop's body was moved a second time, to the main church at Eu on 10 May 1226. Lorcán acquired four feast days in the medieval calendar: a local feast on 2 February, a feast of the first translation on 17 April, a feast of the second translation on 10 May, and a feast of his death on 14 November.

FRANCO-IRISH COMMEMORATIONS

The Franco-Irish connection symbolised by St Lorcán has led to the Ville d'Eu designating 2025 as the 'Year of Ireland' (*année de l'Irlande*), which was celebrated with a two-month-long local and international festival from 17 March to 17 May, for which I have spent the past year acting as academic and cultural advisor.

St Lorcán himself was marked by a series of public lectures and ecumenical celebrations. The octocentenary lectures were delivered on 6 and 13 May, in the theatre of the Château d'Eu (in French) and at the Centre Culturel Irlandais beside the Panthéon in Paris (in English), to an audience of two hundred. In these, I presented the untold political story of Lorcán's canonisation, which will be published in France early next year.

The ecumenical celebrations took place on 10–11 May, led by the two archbishops of Dublin and primates of Ireland, the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson and the Most Revd Dr Dermot Farrell, alongside the archbishop of Rouen and primate of Normandy, Msgr Dominique Lebrun, and the bishop of Amiens, Msgr Gérard Le Stang. On 10 May, the feast of St Lorcán, Archbishop Lebrun welcomed the Irish pilgrims from Dublin and Castledermot to the archiepiscopal palace of Rouen, after which Archbishop Jackson led ecumenical vespers in the soaring nave of Rouen cathedral. The next day, the feast of Christ the Good Shepherd, saw an ecumenical morning mass and evening vespers celebrated in Eu with the pilgrims in the Collégiale de Notre-Dame-et-Saint-Laurent d'Eu, the grand twelfth-century

church built over Lorcán's shrine that now serves the local parish. The roles of the local Eu curate Fr Philippe Maheut, Ringsend parish priest Fr Ivan Tonge, the cathedral's own Dean Dermot Dunne, and the teams supporting them in France and Ireland were indispensable in the preparations for the pilgrimage.

Left: Jesse Harrington lecturing in the theatre at the Château d'Eu.

See page 14 for a picture of Archbishop Jackson & Dean Dunne, ahead of the televised civic and religious procession from Château d'Eu to the collegiate church.



The events on 11 May, which filled the Collégiale de Notre-Dame-et-Saint-Laurent d'Eu up to standing room only, were televised on France 3 and widely reported in French media. The services in Eu were sung in English, French, Latin, and Irish (*sean-nós* style), supported by the Maîtrise Saint-Evode of Rouen cathedral, one of the finest cathedral choirs in France since its formal establishment in the thirteenth century; by the local parish choir of Eu sur Bresle et Yères; and by Gregorian schola choristers from Cork, generously hosted by the parish to mark the medieval role of the bishops of Cork in Lorcán's canonisation. Among the hundreds in attendance were H.E. Niall Burgess, Irish ambassador to France and Monaco, M. Michel Barbier, mayor of Eu, a range of French municipal, regional, and state dignitaries and officials, and members of the clerical, religious, and chivalric orders.

Processions preceded both the mass and vespers. The morning saw the congregation process from the former royal Château d'Eu (now the town hall) to Notre-Dame d'Eu. In the afternoon, the silver reliquary bust containing the saint's skull was carried around the collegiate church by chevaliers of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (*EOHSJ* or *OESSH*), which supports the mission of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Christian communities of the Holy Land, and serves as one of two orders (alongside the knights of Malta) under the patronage and protection of the Holy See. In France, the order plays a prominent role in ecclesiastical ceremonial, most notably bearing the reliquary of the Crown of Thorns in procession into Notre-Dame de Paris at its reopening in



Above: Sunday morning mass at the 12th-century collegiate church (now parish church) of Notre-Dame-et-St-Laurent in Eu.

December 2024. At Notre-Dame d'Eu, the chevaliers were invited to accompany the annual procession of the relics of St Lorcán. This invitation recognised the historic connections between St Lorcán and Jerusalem: as an archbishop who protected northern pilgrims to the Holy Land; whose cause of sainthood was first advanced by the court of Richard the Lionheart as it journeyed to Jerusalem; and whose shrine was financed by the medieval Lusignan family, who then ruled as counts of Eu and as kings of Cyprus and Jerusalem.

Other events in the calendar, celebrating eight hundred years of Irish visitors to the Ville d'Eu, included a festival of Irish writers, hosted meals for the Irish pilgrims and guests of honour in May, and a town-wide

policy of free drinks in public restaurants and establishments for all Irish visitors, generously paid for by the town hall and parish up to the festival's conclusion on 17 May. Altogether, the celebration went above and beyond; an impressive achievement for a small French town and parish of some 8,000 inhabitants served by two curates, and an enduring sign of the vitality of Norman devotion to St Lorcán and of Norman hospitality toward the Irish.

ONGOING RESEARCH

This year has also seen significant recognition of the importance of research into St Lorcán from Taighde Éireann (Research Ireland), Ireland's new competitive research and innovation funding agency, which has awarded a major four-year Pathway Project grant to research 'The lives and miracles of St Lorcán'.



Above: Jesse in the collegiate church with the 19th-century silver reliquary bust and reliquary chest containing, respectively, the skull and bones of St Laurence O'Toole.

I will lead the research team for this landmark multidisciplinary project, which represents a collaboration between the School of Celtic Studies at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, Ireland's statutory independent institute for pure research, and the Department of Early Irish at Maynooth University. Running from 2025–29, its principal objectives are to produce a modern scholarly biography of this indispensable historical and religious figure, as well as the first complete critical edition, translation, and commentary for the entire corpus of medieval Latin sources concerning him. These complementary volumes will update and complete the earlier, partial source editions undertaken between 1893 and 1981, while bringing these underattended and misunderstood sources into dialogue with rich veins of new research on the medieval church that have emerged (and continue to emerge) in the half century since then. In addition, the project has been central to the ongoing artistic, historical, and scientific study of the principal reliquaries in Eu, an important Franco-Irish collaboration with the Ville d'Eu begun earlier this year. A series of public exhibitions, conferences, and lectures arising from the project are also planned.

The texts to be digitised, edited, and translated include around half-a-dozen medieval Latin biographies, as well as three collections of approximately 250 miracles of healing and intercession for petitioners from all levels of late medieval French society, composed at the pilgrimage shrine in Eu. These texts were written from the twelfth to fifteenth centuries in England, France, and Ireland, and copied and preserved in manuscripts in Brussels, Dublin, Oxford, Paris, and Rouen. It is intended that all these will be digitised and made publicly available through DIAS'

Irish Script on Screen (ISOS.ie), the largest digital repository of Irish manuscripts since its establishment in 1999.

This underattended Laurentian corpus represents an invaluable resource for the study of late medieval society in England, France, and Ireland. Their edition and historical study promise a timely and indispensable contribution to the national and international anniversary commemorations of Lorcán's canonisation (1225–2025), birth (1128–2028), and death (1180–2030) that will be held in France and Ireland in 2025–2030. The planned chapters of the biography, for instance, will form the basis for an upcoming series of dedicated Millennium lectures on St Lorcán and the world of twelfth-century Ireland. These will be delivered ahead of the nonacentenary of his birth (1128–2028) and the millennium of the cathedral's foundation (1028–2028), beginning at Christ Church in 2025.

The other senior members of project will include Prof. Barry Lewis (DIAS) and Dr Niamh Wycherley (Maynooth). In addition, an intensely competitive international call was held to appoint a doctoral candidate to the project, which received highly qualified applicants from a range of disciplines, from Europe, North America, and further afield. The successful and newly appointed doctoral candidate is an accomplished young scholar from Italy, Ms Sofia Belleggia. Sofia is a recent graduate in historical philology from the University of Trento, with over a decade of training

in the classics (both Latin and Ancient Greek) and experience producing critical editions, translations, and commentaries of late antique and medieval Latin texts from their medieval manuscripts. From September, Sofia will spend the next four years producing an edition, translation, and study of the main Latin miracle collections of St Lorcán (*Miracula S. Laurentii*), composed at Eu and principally preserved in three manuscripts of the twelfth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries at the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève in Paris.



Sofia Belleggia, newly-appointed doctoral candidate at Maynooth and DIAS, will work on the medieval Latin manuscripts concerning the miracles of St Laurence.

The Pathway project builds on wide-ranging research on St Lorcán and the medieval church that I have been undertaking since 2018, in Belgium, England, France, Ireland, and Italy. To date, this has been supported by an Irish Research Council Fellowship at University College Cork, by an O'Donovan Scholarship and Bergin Fellowship at DIAS, by visiting fellowships with the Centre d'études supérieures de civilisation médiévale in Poitiers, the Centre Culturel Irlandais in

Paris, and the Norwegian Institute in Rome, and by the French Embassy in Dublin and the Irish Embassy in Paris. This serves to demonstrate the international interest in St Lorcán, one which transcends not only the precincts of the cathedral of Christ Church which he knew and served, but also the boundaries of the island of Ireland. The project serves as a timely reminder of how much foundational work needed to be done on him and his medieval world in 2018 – and of how much remains to be done.



FRIENDS AFOOT

Dr Stuart Kinsella

FRIENDS COMMITTEE MEMBER

While elsewhere you will read accounts of the Friends' trips to Rathfarnham castle last November and the Royal Irish Academy of Music in February, the greatly expanded number of events which the Friends have begun to undertake this year has been possible in no small part due to the enthusiasm and expertise of Adrian Le Harivel as one of our, initially co-opted, Honorary Outings Organisers, who has since been reappointed with Eric Rankin to the position following June's AGM. Not only did Adrian, who is an art historian, city walk specialist and former curator of British Art at the National Gallery of Ireland, organise a series of four lectures on the subject 'Marking Time', a recurring interest of his, in March and April but, since May, a series of monthly guided tours of the cathedral on the first Tuesdays of the month at 1.30pm has been established, along with the monthly outings arranged with his co-organiser, Eric Rankin. We are most grateful to them both for researching, organising, and in many cases, recce-ing, such interesting and varied tours.

The series of afternoon talks on aspects of time was a new departure for the Friends and to be welcomed alongside the lectures organised by the History, Research and Learning (formerly Archives) committee. These took place on Fridays in Spring upstairs in the chapter house, in the music or Henry Roe room which has become the cathedral's *de facto* lecture theatre and occasional cinema, as well as its primary role in hosting musical preparation, and we

are most grateful to Tom Little for allowing us to use the room. Four lecturers spoke, beginning on Friday 28 March with Adrian on the subject of how Napoleon I changed our vision of time. Hilary O'Kelly, a fashion specialist at the National College of Art & Design gave the second talk on Friday 4 April on the subject of fashion: 'Make-up, hair & underwear' (!) depicted on the cathedral monuments. The author gave an overview of the cathedral's history on Friday 11 April, and following Easter, Síghle Bhreathnach-Lynch, former curator of Irish Arts at the National Gallery of Ireland spoke on American collectors of Irish art.

MARKING TIME:

A SERIES OF AFTERNOON TALKS ON ASPECTS OF TIME

FRIDAYS IN SPRING 2025 @ 14.00

CHAPTER HOUSE, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN



FRIDAY 28 MARCH

How Napoleon I changed our vision of time
Adrian Le Harivel, former Curator of
British Art, National Gallery of Ireland

FRIDAY 4 APRIL

Fashion essentials in history: Make-up, hair
& underwear on cathedral monuments
Hilary O'Kelly, fashion specialist,
National College of Art & Design

FRIDAY 11 APRIL

This fleeting world: Changes & chances
at Christ Church cathedral, Dublin
Stuart Kinsella, Research Advisor
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

FRIDAY 25 APRIL

A moment in time: The American O'Brien,
Burns and Krehbiel collections & their
support of Irish art
Síghle Bhreathnach-Lynch,
former Curator of Irish Art, NGI

TICKETS €10 (€30 for all four), €5 for both
Friends of Christ Church & concessions.
Free to the cathedral community.

Organised by the FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN.
The chapter house lecture room is unfortunately only accessible by stairs.
E: friends@christchurch.ie | W: www.christchurchcathedral.ie





Since May, a guided tour of the cathedral has been paired with Friends' outings, which has seen a pleasant increase in the number of people taking an interest in the cathedral and its associated activities. The author gave the first of the 'first Tuesday' lunchtime tours showing Friends around the cathedral and crypt on 6 May, and this was followed with an outing on Thursday 22 May to two Georgian houses on Merrion Square East: 45, the Irish Architectural Archive, and 37, the Goethe Institute, led by Adrian. On 3 June, a most interesting tour of the cathedral liberty was

also led by Adrian and, a few days after the Friends' activities on Trinity Sunday 15 June, Eric Rankin led a morning outing to the National Maritime Museum of Ireland in Dun Laoghaire. The director of music, Tom Little, led a tour on 1 July on the subject of cathedral music making, and the Friends were treated to a visit to Adrian Le Harivel's home in Dublin's embassy quarter on Saturday 19 July where, along with a talk on his artistic and architectural interests, some nineteen Friends were warmly welcomed with a generously wined lunch to boot.

*Above: Adrian Le Harivel's 'At Home' outing.
Below: 'Georgians immortalised' tour.*





Friends of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin 2025-6 Programme

2025	First Tuesday of the Month Tours	Outside Excursions
MAY	6 May, 13.30 Tour of cathedral & crypt (Stuart Kinsella)	22 May Irish Architectural Archive & Goethe Institute (Adrian Le Harivel)
JUNE	3 June, 13.30 Christ Church cathedral liberty (Adrian Le Harivel)	19 June National Maritime Museum, Dun Laoghaire (Eric Rankin)
JULY	1 July, 13.30 Making music in the cathedral (Tom Little)	19 July At home at Nutley (Adrian Le Harivel)
AUGUST	5 August, 13.30 Georgians immortalised (Adrian Le Harivel)	*No Excursion: Summer Recess
SEPTEMBER	2 September, 13.30 Up the belfry (Ray Cregan)	17 September 20th-century stained-glass walk (Adrian Le Harivel)
OCTOBER	7 October, 13.30 Keeping the fabric together (Frank Keohane)	15 October Saint-Gallen & Medieval Ireland National Museum of Ireland exhibition (Adrian Le Harivel)
NOVEMBER	4 November, 13.30 Commemorating St Laurence O'Toole (The Dean)	20 November Irish Georgian Society HQ & Powerscourt House (Adrian Le Harivel)
DECEMBER	2 December, 13.30 Dressing the cathedral for Christmas (Cathedral staff)	9 December Peata Carol Service & Pet Blessing
JANUARY 2026	Epiphany, 6 January Cathedral closed	15 January Silver at Collins Barracks, National Museum of Ireland (Adrian Le Harivel)

'Georgians immortalised' in the cathedral memorials was the title of a guided tour given by Adrian on 5 August and on 2 September, there will be a tour of the belfry by ringing master, Raymond Cregan, followed on Wednesday 17 September, by a tour of 20th-century stained glass by Adrian. We are also most grateful to Dublinia for hosting refreshments in their coffee shop across the bridge in the old

synod hall, following the Tuesday tours, and we look forward to seeing readers at future events. A table of Friends' activities for the year can be found in the accompanying table above, and do please email our membership secretary, Bridie McLaughlin (ccdubfriends@gmail.com) to let us know you'd like to attend to give us a better sense of numbers. A Friendly welcome awaits!



FRIENDS' OUTING: RATHFARNHAM CASTLE

Dr Kenneth Milne

CHURCH OF IRELAND HISTORIOGRAPHER &
FORMER HONORARY KEEPER OF THE ARCHIVES

Our events' organisers have again provided a most interesting 'local' visit: this time to Rathfarnham Castle on Thursday 21 November 2024. Though 600 years younger than Christ Church, the castle has much in common with our cathedral, representing many centuries of Irish history. At first sight the exterior is a splendid example of a Tudor fortified house but on entering we found ourselves in a Georgian palace, evidence of earlier stages of its life being carefully preserved.

Set in turbulent political times in the vulnerable foothills of the Dublin mountains, the castle was part of a huge territory comprising the private residence of Adam Loftus, one of the earliest post-Reformation archbishops of Dublin (another link with Christ Church)

who was also lord chancellor of Ireland in days when church and state were closely intertwined. In the course of time it passed into various hands, being a Jesuit house in the 19th century, after which it suffered a period of neglect, until in modern times it fell into public ownership in the care of the Office of Public Works. The OPW has made it accessible to the modern visitor by introducing a lift and a café, while splendidly restoring the building, not least the 18th-century rooms with their carefully preserved coloured glass, a rarity in Ireland.

Rathfarnham Castle is a most welcoming venue, and the Friends showed their appreciation of an enjoyable and erudite tour by posing many well-informed questions to our most considerate guide.





FRIENDS' OUTING: ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Adrian Le Harivel

FREELANCE ART HISTORIAN &

FORMER NGI CURATOR OF BRITISH ART

There was an enthusiastic gathering of fourteen on Saturday 22 February to see old and new at the Royal Irish Academy of Music on Westland Row. The date was chosen as it was meant to be a half-term pause, however, as it turned out, music never seems to stop there, from the youngest age to active retired.

Director Deborah Kelleher warmly greeted the group and introduced the major changes since the substantial rebuilding by Todd Architects, which, with Covid-19 and financing delays, was only completed in 2023 and is now described as a 'teaching campus'. At a cost of €24 million (€11 million raised from donors), there is over 4,300 square metres of new

space, comprising a glazed foyer, two performance venues, a lecture room, three floors of practice and teaching rooms, a library and recording facilities. Being a Georgian property, it was able to re-utilise the property footprint back to Cumberland Street, where there had been make-do

structures before. From the outside, the house shows nothing of its history. RIAM moved here in 1870, but it was built c.1775 by speculator Nicholas Tench, and leased to William Westland, whose family owned the brickworks opposite today's Pearse Street Station. First class students then had to pay six guineas a year tuition and make themselves available for concerts.



Royal Irish Academy of Music, Westland Row.

Today, there is a structured academic programme, and it has won accolades in the music community with students and teachers from across the globe. The ground floor Early Music room retains its neo-classical plasterwork, and access did involve some gentle persuasion: two organ students delaying their practice and a horn player, who moved

in during their absence, given an *appassionata*

ejection. When they were built, the main stairs had the latest ironwork balustrade of the time, and rare pewter ornament around the windows, a first-floor garden outside now appearing rather strangely. The main upstairs Georgian rooms are on the

familiar Dublin L-shape. The front one, with niches and an ornate ceiling copied from engraved design by George Richardson, was possibly envisaged as a music room and was formerly used by the director. The main pair of rooms were joined in 1871 for concerts and teaching, a children's choir rehearsing just ahead of our arrival. It is called the organ room, from the Thomas Telford organ that has had numerous makeovers and today sounds more like a mighty Wurlitzer. Board member Alfred Jones provided portraits of three Victorian worthies also involved in city and cathedral music, including Professor Robert Prescott Stewart, who was also organist of Christ Church (1844–94).

The benefits of an integrated building were shown, as we could now progress into the extension, entering a literal warren of corridors and near identical (soundproofed) practice rooms. One would not expect to find the two-storey Whyte Recital Hall at its centre, purposely not named a concert hall, as it is both grand and intimate. The 200-seater stalls area is most used by audiences, but the upper balcony has room for a further 100 and is an excellent place to view the overall shape of the interior. The finishing is excellent, a walnut facing, comfortable seats with durable material and excellent acoustics that can be modified as needed. Students can now really experience a proper public event on-site, catering from single instruments to

the forty-piece RIAM Chamber Orchestra. There is both diverse programming, as well as eight competitions held annually, with events put on by outside groups too. Downstairs, the Vernon Studio Hall is a flexible space with a capacity of about 75, used for recitals, launches and practicing for the Vocal and Opera section, which puts on an annual opera in January, often little known. The unexpected cherry on our visit was to take the Steinway-size lift to the fourth floor (they have four to manoeuvre around), where the library has a side of windows looking out over the huddle of adjacent properties, so that even familiar



The first orchestral performance at the new Whyte Hall at the Royal Irish Academy of Music was a concert of Mozart and Haydn by the Irish Baroque Orchestra (originally founded in 1996 as the cathedral's own Christ Church Baroque orchestra) on Saturday 9 September 2003.

exteriors are viewed differently. If books seem to be low on the student agenda, there are plenty of computers. Some music, by the unpublished, needless to say, often women, who are actively promoted at the RIAM, still has to be sourced, and music libraries continue to serve this important role.



COMMUNITY OF ST LAURENCE

Vivienne George

COMMUNITY SECRETARY & TREASURER

The Community of St Laurence at Christ Church is a growing and vibrant group established in 2023 by the dean, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne. The Community provides a spiritual home for everyone, irrespective of denomination, who seeks truth, connection and a common purpose. It is rooted in the ancient Augustinian charisms of worship, welcome, and witness.

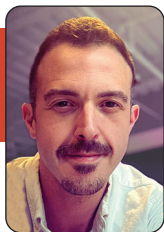
A committed group of people lead the community: Matty Zaradich and Imad Hazboun serve as co-wardens, and Vivienne George serves as secretary and treasurer. The board members of the Community, Dean Paulson and Danielle Furlong, assist with hosting events and organising ideas that the committee has to offer, and their contributions are essential to the group's operation. The board works together to direct the Community's mission of spiritual exploration, hospitality, and engagement under the guidance and support of our dean, Dermot Dunne. Today, the Community of St Laurence has around twenty-seven members from diverse cultural and spiritual backgrounds, who seek a space to share, grow, and explore faith in an open and supportive environment.

The Community hosts various events that reflect this mission in action, from hosting dinners, hikes, movie screenings, and casual social gatherings designed to build fellowship and joy. Recent highlights include a movie night in the cathedral's music room where the movie *Living*, starring Bill Nighy, was screened. In January this year, a relaxed dinner and

drinks evening was hosted at a local pub in Dublin with fun and chats. The Community also were excited to hike around Howth on Saturday 31 May, to host a picnic in the Phoenix Park on Saturday 21 June, and to help with the special Pride Service on Friday 13 June, affirming our commitment to inclusivity and celebration.

Top to bottom: A night at the cathedral cinema; the Community enjoying an evening out; a hike around Howth.





PRIDE & PRAISE IN THE HEART OF THE CATHEDRAL

Matthew Zaradich

CO-WARDEN OF THE COMMUNITY OF ST LAURENCE

On the evening of Friday, 13 June 2025, the soaring arches of Christ Church were filled with colour, music, and sacred celebration as the cathedral hosted its fourth annual Pride service. Held during Global Pride Month, the service brought together LGBTQ+ people and allies from across Ireland and beyond to worship, witness, and affirm a truth at the heart of our Christian faith: where there is love, there is holiness—and where there is holiness, there is God.

This year's Pride service marked a powerful milestone in the life of the cathedral. Over the past four years, the service has grown in depth and significance, becoming a hallmark of Christ Church's commitment to justice, welcome, and the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in the life of the church.

The 2025 service was planned primarily by myself in partnership with Dean Dermot Dunne. Together, we worked closely with Changing Attitude Ireland, a Church of Ireland-based network advocating for LGBTQ+ inclusion. The result was a service that was both theologically rich and pastorally grounded, blending beauty, truth, and joy.

This year's preacher was the Rt Revd Dr Bonnie A. Perry, bishop of Michigan in the Episcopal Church (USA), and the first openly lesbian bishop to serve in that diocese. Her presence at Christ Church was historic and deeply moving – an act of visible solidarity from across the Anglican Communion and a testament to what is

possible when the church truly lives out its calling.

Bishop Perry preached from Acts, focusing on the wisdom of the story of Gamaliel, who warned the religious authorities that if the apostles' message was of God, it could not be silenced. Drawing from this, she delivered a powerful refrain throughout her sermon: 'If it was good enough for Jesus, then it's good enough for us'. Her message called the church to remember its roots in radical love and bold truth-telling – especially when those truths come from the margins.



Pictured in the chapter house (left to right): Matty Zaradich, Father Kevin O'Brien (acting chair Changing Attitude Ireland), Bishop Bonnie Perry, Dean Dermot Dunne and Mark Bowyer (former CAI chair, 2023-5).

In her sermon, Bishop Perry also shared deeply personal stories from her own journey: recognising her identity as a child, encountering fear and shame, and experiencing the transforming love of God during a retreat as a teenager. That moment, she said, when she felt fully loved by God for who she was, shaped the rest of her life and ministry. 'All I wanted to do after

that', she shared, 'was let people know: God loves you. No exceptions'.

The music of the evening echoed and amplified the themes of love and liberation. The cathedral choir offered two particularly resonant hymns: 'Canticle of the turning', a modern hymn inspired by the Magnificat with themes of justice and divine upheaval, and 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty', a traditional favourite that filled the cathedral with energy and joy. As always, the choir's presence provided an anchor of sacred beauty to the liturgy.

More than a celebration, the Pride Service was a bold act of witness. In opening the pulpit and the sanctuary to LGBTQ+ voices and leadership, the cathedral reaffirmed its place as a spiritual home where every person can encounter the love of God without condition or exception. The presence of Bishop Perry, an openly queer bishop, was not only affirming – it was prophetic. It served as a signpost for what the church can be: courageous, inclusive, and grounded in love.

Following the service, Dean Dunne presented a €3,000 donation from Christ Church to BeLoNG To Youth Services, a

national organisation supporting the mental health and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth in Ireland. The gift was a tangible expression of the church's commitment not only to inclusion in liturgy, but to justice in action.

To mark her visit and honour her ministry, Bishop Perry was inducted into the Order of St Laurence, an honour given to individuals who embody the values of service, witness, and leadership. Her induction was greeted with warm applause and heartfelt gratitude.

For the Friends of Christ Church, this year's Pride service is a reminder of the cathedral's unique role in shaping an inclusive church for the future. It is precisely in services like these – where truth meets beauty, and justice meets liturgy – that we see the fruits of our shared commitment to sustaining the spiritual and cultural life of this beloved place.

As the sun set behind the cathedral and the final notes of music drifted through the nave, the feeling that lingered was one of hope – a sense that the church can be, and indeed is becoming, a place where all are seen, heard, and loved.

Or, as Bishop Perry reminded us with conviction and grace: 'If it's good enough for Jesus, then it's good enough for us'.

The dean speaking at a reception in south transept after the Pride evensong.





FIR NAOFA DE BHUNADH ANGLACÁNACH

Aonghus Dwane

BRUSSELS-BASED WRITER & EU TRANSLATOR

Mar chaitliceach Rómhánach a bhfuil spéis agam san Anglacánachas le fada an lá, ba mhaith liom san alt seo díriú ar bheirt de bhunadh Anglacánach, a raibh baint acu le Baile Átha Cliath, agus a bhfuil aitheantas speisialta tugtha ag an Eaglais Chaitliceach Rómhánach dóibh i ngeall ar a gcráifeacht. Is tráthúil bheith ag scríobh futhu, toisc gurbh é an Pápa Proinsias, a fuair bás le déanaí, a dhearbhaigh gur beannaitheach é duine amháin acu (John Sullivan Beannaithe), agus a rinne naomh den duine eile (Naomh John Henry Newman).

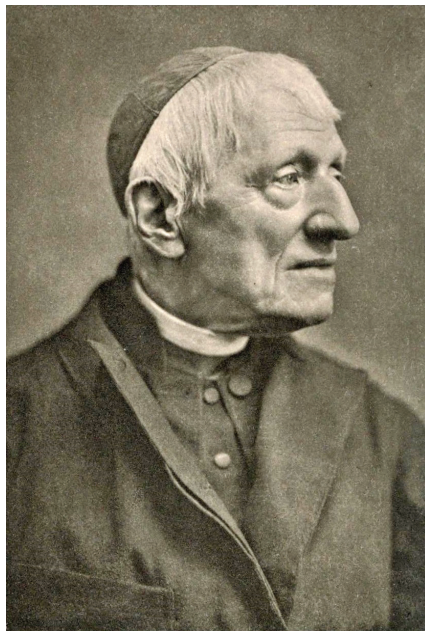
Bhí John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

ina dhiagaire agus ina scríbhneoir Sasanach.

Mar shagart Anglacánach agus ceannaire ar Ghluaiseacht Oxford, bhí sé mar aidhm aige go bhfillfeadh Eaglais Shasana ar a fréamhacha caitliceacha. Scríobh sé cuid mhór de na Tracts for the times, go háirithe tráchtas uimhir 90 a spreag diospóireacht faoi nádúr agus údarás an Anglacánachais. In 1845, thiontaigh sé ina Chaitliceach Rómhánach, rud a bhí an-chonspóideach i Sasana i ré Victoria.

Oirníodh mar shagart é agus bhunaigh sé Aireagal

Naomh Pilib Neri i mBirmingham. Scríobh sé go forleathan ar chúrsaí diagachta, ar chúrsaí oideachais agus ar chúrsaí creidimh. Bhí meas as cuimse ar a dhoimhneacht spioradálta agus ar a ghrinneas intinne, agus rinne an Pápa Leo XIII cairdinéal de in 1879. Ceapadh ina chéad reachtóir ar Ollscoil Chaitliceach na hÉireann (bunús Choláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath, go deimhin) é in 1851, agus iarrachtaí ar bun oideachas tríú leibhéal den scoth a chur ar fáil do phobal caitliceach na hÉireann. Cé go raibh deacrachtaí ag an ollscoil sin, bhí tionchar mór ag Newman ar an oideachas caitliceach, agus leag sé amach a thacaíocht don oideachas liobrálach agus don fhorbairt



Grianghraf de John Henry Newman (1801–90) le Herbert Rose Barraud, c.1885.

intleachtúil ina shraith léachtaí dar teideal The idea of a university. Is cuimhin liom staidéar a dhéanamh ar ghiota as na léachtaí seo agus mé i mbun na hArdteiste sna 1980idí agus chuaigh sé i gcion go mór orm. Rinne an Pápa Benedict beannaitheach de John Henry Newman in 2010 le linn a chuairt ar Shasana (bhí mana Newman Cor ad cor loquitur – “ag labhairt ó chroí go croí” - mar mhana don chuairt uile), agus bhí scata easpag ó Eaglais Shasana i láthair ag an Aifreann i bPairc Crofton. In 2019, bhí

an Prionsa Séarlas agus easpaig ó Eaglais Shasana i láthair ag an Vatacáin nuair a rinne an Pápa Proinsias naomh de.

Rugadh John Sullivan (1861-1933) i mBaile Átha Cliath. Bhí a athair ina bhall d'Eaglais na hÉireann agus a mháthair ina caitliceach. Baisteadh i Séipéal Naomh Seoirse ar Shráid an Teampaill é, agus tógadh in Eaglais na hÉireann é. Fuair sé a chuid oideachais i Scoil Ríoga Portora agus i gColáiste na Tríonóide. Rinne sé neart taistil, agus chaith sé tréimhse i gceann de na mainistreacha ar Mount Athos. Thiontaigh sé ina Chaitliceach Rómhánach in 1896 agus chuaigh sé leis na hÍosagánaigh. Ba mhúinteoir é i gColáiste Clongowes. Bhain sé amach cáil i ngeall ar a umhlaíocht, a naofacht agus a mhinstreacht íce, agus rinneadh beannaitheach de faoi

réimeas an Phápa Proinsias, Íosagánach eile (ní raibh an Pápa féin i láthair) ar an 13 Bealtaine 2017, an chéad duine a rinneadh beannaitheach de in Éirinn féin. Thug an tArdeaspag Michael Jackson ó Eaglais na hÉireann aitheasc ag an ócáid sin, agus é ag críochnú leis na focail "Floreat John Sullivan!" Is i Séipéal Naomh Proinsias Xavier i mBaile Átha Cliath atá tuama John Sullivan.

Gabhaimid buíochas le Dia as an Naomh agus as an duine Beannaithe seo, as a múnú mar Anglacánaigh, as comhtuiscint níos fearr idir Críostaithe, as Comaoin na Naomh, agus as na naoimh uile eile gan ainm gan áireamh, iad siúd atá fós inár measc agus iad siúd atá i mbun adhartha anois "ach ar chladach eile, faoi sholas eile."



A boulevard view of the cathedral and the ruins of St Nicholas Within on the right, from Nicholas Street.

CORRECTIONS

In the last edition of *Friends' News*, 42:2 (Winter 2024), the following corrections should be noted: *Omissions*: pp. 8, 10, 25, 27, 42, 47 (the dreaded plural possessive apostrophe); 17 (of); 42 (towers); 56 (Lett's); 70 (Past Choristers': Mr, Ms & Dr); 54 (, [Kildare]); 57 ([up] to). *Excesses*: pp. 17 (be); 34 (just); 48 (as); 65 (of x2). *Misspellings*: pp 25 (endeavour); 28 (having for have); 48 (licence); 60 (mileage); 64 (Iris & incorrectly); 70 (Communications); 59 (take for took). The editor apologises for these slips, and encourages readers to alert him at archives@christchurch.ie to any corrections, additions, or other infelicities. *Mea maxima culpa!*



JOIN THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

The Friends of Christ Church were founded in 1929 by Dean Herbert Kennedy to support the cathedral financially by drawing on a larger pool of people from the united dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough and beyond who were not on the vestry register. Over the years the Friends have become an important link with the parishes and the city, and have raised sufficient money to fund considerable restoration

work on the building and its monuments. Under the chairmanship of Terence Read in the 1980s-90s, the Friends expanded considerably and trips, which had been inaugurated in 1955, expanded to international pilgrimages.

Today the Friends continue to support the fabric of the cathedral having coordinated the installation of new chairs in the nave, paid for the restoration of monuments, as well as many other additions. The Friends' outings in 2024 included visits to the Unitarian Church, the Print Museum, the National Gallery of Ireland, St Audoen's Church, Dalkey castle, St Mary's abbey chapter house and a visit to Rathfarnham Castle, and in 2025 have included a lecture series and new guided tours of the cathedral as well as the traditional outings. The Friends also publish a bi-annual journal which documents and informs its members of the myriad activities taking place in the busy cathedral these days.

Membership is €25 within Ireland and €35 outside Ireland. Contributions of €250 and over may be tax refundable in Ireland and include a five-year membership of the Friends. Do please help support the Friends and their work for the cathedral and give more if you can!

Banking details:

Allied Irish Banks plc, 7-12 Dame Street, Dublin 2
Account name: Friends of Christ Church
Account Number: 15214039
IBAN: IE63 AIBK 9312 2515 2140 39
BIC: AIBKIE2DXXX



Stripe: Visit <https://buy.stripe.com/5kA01O3sc4W13lu7su>, or scan

the QR code (right) with your camera phone to pay for membership.

Direct Debit / Standing Order: Alternatively use the above bank details to set up a direct debit, or instruct your bank to create a standing order in favour of the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin giving your account number, name of your bank and bank address, payable to the Friends' AIB account above, specifying the sum of euro, commencing on a specific date on the same day annually until further notice.

Membership details: Send details of your **address, mobile number** or **email address** (a photo will do) to Bridie McLaughlin at cccdubfriends@gmail.com, who will set up your account. If you have any queries, ring her at 00 353 87 790 6062 (leave a message if phone is unattended). You will receive a membership card, be advised of Friends' and cathedral events, and receive a copy of the *Friends' News* twice yearly. You will also be entitled to free entrance to the cathedral and a 10% discount in the cathedral shop on presentation of your membership card. We look forward to meeting you!

FRIENDS COMMITTEE: NEW MEMBERS

PAUL ARBUTHNOT

Canon Paul Arbuthnot is delighted to be on the committee of the Friends of Christ Church. The cathedral has a special place in his heart being where he was ordained deacon (2010) and priest (2011). Originally from Carrickfergus, County Antrim, as a child he was a cathedral chorister at St Anne's, Belfast. Before ordination he read history at Trinity College Dublin where, as a student, he was fortunate to further his love of cathedral worship and music by singing in the choirs of both Christ Church and St Patrick's. After completing his primary degree, he wrote an M.Litt. thesis at Trinity about the lay vicars choral of the two Dublin cathedrals during the nineteenth century.



He was subsequently ordained for the curacy of St Paul's, Glenageary in this diocese, when he was also a clerical vicar of Christ Church. After this he spent some time in the Church of England as precentor of St Alban's cathedral in Hertfordshire, and then as sacrist of Westminster abbey. On his return to Ireland, he served as rector of Cobh & Glanmine Union of Parishes and then as incumbent of St Ann's, Dawson Street & St Stephen's ('Pepper Canister' church). He is currently back at his *alma mater* as dean of residence at Trinity College Dublin. He was elected a canon of St Patrick's in 2022, and in February 2025 was installed as a canon of Christ Church. He is thoroughly enjoying his renewed association with Christ Church and looks forward to contributing even more to the life of the cathedral through serving on the Friends' Committee.

RAYMOND CREGAN

Ringling master Ray Cregan took to bell ringing like a puffin to skydiving and within a few short years was elected ringing master in 2021 by general acclamation. He has also been the honorary secretary of the Christ Church Cathedral Society of Change Ringers since 2020. He regularly shows visitors the ropes (literally) particularly when various groups visit the tower for the 'Culture Date with Dublin 8' and Liberties festivals, Heritage Week, and the Culture Night and Open House evenings, and enjoys advocating for the practice of bell ringing more widely in Ireland. Outside the cathedral, he has a particular interest in the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, but has been glad to combine the two interests when raising both money for charity and profile for campanology. If you fancy taking up a hobby with some light physical and mental exercise, turn up at the turret door at the base of the tower on Fridays at 6.30pm, and you'll be most welcome.'



FRIENDS COMMITTEE: NEW MEMBERS

KENNETH FENNELLY

Dr Kenneth Fennelly is originally from Kilkenny but has been a member of the congregation at Christ Church since about 2001 when he moved to the Dublin area after attending college at Maynooth University. However, he recalls that his earliest memory of attending the cathedral was when he was about eight or nine years of age for evensong with his late grandmother (when there were rickety wooden chairs!). Members of the congregation at Christ Church will be familiar with seeing Ken as one of the servers or readers, from time to time, at the Sunday services. Ken is the Education Secretary for the Church of Ireland, based at Church House, Rathmines, and served on the Friends' committee before, around ten years ago, and looks forward to serving on it once again.



MATTHEW ZARADICH

Matty Zaradich is honoured to serve as honorary secretary of the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, where he brings a deep commitment to community, inclusion, and the evolving role of the church in the world today. A devoted member of the cathedral community, he also serves as co-warden of the Community of St Laurence—a growing spiritual initiative rooted in contemplation, welcome, and justice. Originally from Chicago and now based in Dublin, Matty works in senior leadership at a global technology company, where he leads teams in professional services. His focus is on helping clients achieve long-term success through strategic guidance, implementation, and support.

As an experienced executive coach, he is passionate about developing individuals and organisations through clarity, creativity, and compassionate leadership.

At Christ Church Cathedral, Matty has been a driving force behind the annual Pride Service, creating sacred space where LGBTQ+ people are celebrated and affirmed. His leadership in this area reflects a wider call to build a church that is radically inclusive, liturgically rich, and boldly engaged in the work of justice. Outside work and ministry, Matty is passionate about running, live music, theatre, and the simple joy of sharing good food and conversation with friends. He also co-hosts a long-running podcast that explores the intersections of film, queer culture, and current events – offering a unique and often provocative lens on the world we live in. Matty believes in the power of beauty, truth, and community – and works to bring those values to everything he does.



FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN
Annual General Meeting, Trinity Sunday 15 June 2025

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Minutes of the 2024 AGM
3. Chairman's Address
4. Honorary Secretary Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Outings Report
7. Election of Committee to serve 2025–26
Dean's Nominees (6)
Election of six members
8. Closing Prayer.

MINUTES

*of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin,
held on Trinity Sunday, 26 May 2024, in the chapter house.*

Present:

The Very Revd Dermot Dunne, Dean
(Chairperson);
Brian Bradshaw (Honorary Treasurer);
Alan Mulligan (Honorary Secretary);
Bridie McLaughlin (Assistant Secretary);
Others as per attendance sheet.

Apologies:

Rhoda Bradshaw, Carol Casey, Desmond &
Ruth Kinsella, Dr Kenneth Milne, Revd Ken
& Leslie Rue.

1/24 Opening Prayer

The Dean opened the AGM with prayer.

He also introduced Bridie McLaughlin
and welcomed her as the new Assistant
Secretary of the Friends.

The dean thanked Stuart Kinsella for the
superb job he did on the production of the
latest *Friends' News*. He advised that the

Agenda for today's AGM is on page 45 of
the *Friends' News*.

2/24 Minutes

The minutes of last year's AGM held on
Sunday 4 June 2023 were taken as read
and confirmed.

3/24 Chairperson's Address

The dean said that the cathedral is getting
busier and busier all the time, the shop is
booming, and the volunteers are a huge
help in the running of the shop amongst
other things. He said that it has been
sixteen years since he took up his role at
the cathedral and that the life and work
of the cathedral is greatly enhanced by
the CEO, Suzanne Reid, who is a great
asset to the cathedral. She is superb in her
role, ensuring that there is always a warm
welcome for visitors to the cathedral.

He also mentioned that Tom Little does an amazing job as director of music as evidenced by the choir earlier in the cathedral.

The dean mentioned several projects currently in progress at the cathedral, one of which is the compliance under governance / charity law to protect the trustees of the cathedral as members of the board. The cathedral's status has changed and it is to become a company limited by guarantee (CLG) which will allow the cathedral to have better clout in the area of finance where loans and fundraising matters are concerned. A new constitution is being created because the present one is not worded in such a way as to be compliant with current legislation.

Another project is the planning for the millennium celebration in 2028, and a subcommittee is in place in this regard. Questions that need answers are: how to celebrate and what do we need to do to celebrate the millennium. Allied to this event, the dean advised that the cathedral organ has been given a 'terminal' diagnosis following an assessment by Harrison & Harrison, UK organ builders. The interior of the organ is damaged, many of the stops are no longer viable and he likened it to a beautifully decorated cake with a rotten middle. The only viable solution is to replace it, the likely cost will be in the region of €2.5–€3 million and Harrison & Harrison would be engaged to do the work. The old organ will limp along for another couple of years in the meantime.

Other projects include the restoration of the windows on the south side. Phase 1 is already completed. Work on phases two and three needs to be carried out.

The railings need to be underpinned. The Civic Offices may help with this and take

responsibility for the repairs. The cathedral gave land to what was then the Corporation in exchange for erecting railings in the past. Dublin City Council may do restoration work in co-operation with St Werburgh's church.

The dean reiterated again that the cathedral is 'alive' and reminded those present that the Friends have contributed to the cathedral choir going on tour in 2024 and also contribute towards the cathedral flowers. The Friends' base of contributors had shrunk in size over the last few years and continues to shrink. There is a very real need to spread the range of the Friends so that new memberships can be encouraged.

He also remembered recently deceased members and particularly David Bockett who was a stalwart of both the cathedral Board and the Friends for many years and he noted that Janet Bockett was in attendance at the AGM. He extended his sympathies to Janet and gave thanks for David's life.

Desmond Campbell asked about the appointment of a new dean's vicar. The dean said that the job of dean's vicar can be somewhat de-skilling given its role and it can be difficult to get into a parish after being in the role.

The dean advised that having started out with five applicants, one from Nigeria, one from Texas, two from the UK, and one from Hong Kong, this has now reduced to one applicant from the UK. Two applicants withdrew from the process for their own reasons. There will be an opportunity to meet the new dean's vicar at a reception after choral evensong on Tuesday 28 June.

Eric Conroy asked about finances and the accumulation of funds. The dean clarified that the cathedral needs a reserve but cannot be seen to accumulate funds as that is not in line with Registered Charity rules.

A heritage grant of €170,000 is available. This sum will have to be matched and would allow for €340,000 worth of work. This can be achieved with a loan from the RCB.

The dean, in response to a question from David Wynne, confirmed that the proposed formation of a CLG will have to have Synod approval and this would be progressed by a Notice of Motion to the General Synod in 2025.

4/24 Reports: Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer & Outing Organisers

Alan Mulligan spoke in tribute to the dean and the work he puts in and voiced thanks for members of the Friends' committee, and former members, Peter Maher, assistant secretary and the Revd Dr Edwin Aiken, vice-chair and honorary editor of the *Friends' News*.

Stuart Kinsella was welcomed as the new honorary editor.

Iris Thompson, Patricia Sweetman and Eric Rankin were specifically thanked for their work in connection with the outings organised for members of the Friends. The staff of the cathedral were also thanked. The dean was unaware of Don Macauley's death.

Desmond Campbell had signed off on the accounts and paid tribute to the work of Brian Bradshaw in keeping excellent financial records.

Eric Conroy asked about the difference in the secretarial budget / costs from the 2023 accounts when they were €5,000. Brian Bradshaw clarified that that there had been a change in personnel, a lower rate of honorarium and gap periods when no payments were made.

It was confirmed that a grant of €10,000 was agreed for a calligraphic version of St

John's Gospel to be paid for from the W.B. Heney Restricted Income Deposit Account together with €5,000 to assist with the choir's tour in the UK in 2024. It had also been agreed by the committee that the balance of the said account would not be reduced below €45,000, pending a decision on the refurbishment of some of the monuments in the cathedral.

David Wynne proposed and Desmond Campbell seconded the adoption of the accounts.

The dean thanked Desmond Campbell for signing off and Brian Bradshaw for keeping the accounts.

Eric Rankin said that there had been four outings in the year to date. Patricia Sweetman is planning a meeting regarding future outings. It was noted that any changes of address or circumstances should be sent to Bridie McLaughlin and she will amend the database record so that as many people as possible are notified of outings.

The dean flagged an upcoming pilgrimage to Eu in France in 2025 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of St Laurence O'Toole's canonization. It is being organised by the Catholic diocese and approximately eight places will be available.

5/24 Appointments to Committee for 2024-25

Dean's Nominees (6)

Brian Bradshaw
Patricia Sweetman
Alan Mulligan
Stuart Kinsella
Kenneth Milne
Desmond Campbell

Members' Appointees (6)

Carol Casey, Iris Thompson and Eric Rankin were agreeable to continue on the committee. At this point Desmond

Campbell mentioned about getting younger members onto the committee. Stuart Kinsella nominated Pierce Cullen and Tom Little. The dean said that they need to become members of the Friends first and Stuart said this was in hand.

Brian Bradshaw nominated Bridie McLaughlin.

The foregoing were proposed by David Wynne and seconded by Iris Thompson.

David Wynne thanked Alan Mulligan for the secretarial report and proposed acceptance, seconded by Iris Thompson.

The dean said Trinity Sunday was the high

point of the Friends' year and asked was everyone happy to continue with the new catering arrangements of canapés and prosecco for future AGMs? This was agreed.

The dean thanked those present for their attendance and there being no further business, the meeting was closed with the saying of the grace.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



The cathedral office goldfish, Daire & Andy, no relation to their senior verger namesakes.

FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN

Receipts & Payments Account – Year ended 31/12/24

RECEIPTS:		€
SUBSCRIPTIONS	7506.40	6631.46
5 YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS	750.00	250.00
DONATIONS & LEGACIES	3705.00	520.00
FLOWERS: Subscriptions	0.00	65.00
OUTINGS	0.00	20.00
SUNDRY		
Sub Total	11961.40	7486.46
LESS Contras		-58.39
TOTAL	11961.40	7428.07

PAYMENTS:	€	€
FLOWERS	1150.00	750.00
OUTINGS	0.00	
FUNCTIONS	0.00	
SECRETARIAL /AUDITOR'S HONORARIUM	2000.00	2250.00
LECTURE SERIES	700.00	400.00
FRIENDS' NEWS: Printing & Postage	2804.15	1720.61
PRINTING & STATIONERY	0.00	6.00
TELEPHONE, FAX & GENERAL POSTAGE:	495.00	849.78
TECHNOLOGY	0.00	
SUNDRY		13.96
MEMBERSHIP		1006.33
GRATUITIES	1000.00	100.00
BANK CHARGES AND STAMP DUTY ON CHEQUES	80.49	80.68
Sub Total:	8229.64	7177.36
LESS Contras		-58.39
TOTAL:	8229.64	7118.97

EXCESS of RECEIPTS over PAYMENTS:	3731.76	309.10
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BALANCE SHEET

OPENING BALANCE ON CURRENT ACCOUNT Bt/Fwd	2067.00	1758.00
OPENING BALANCE ON DEPOSIT ACCOUNT Bt/Fwd	0.00	0.00
PRIZE BONDS	184.00	184.00
	2251.00	1942.00
ADD Surplus for Year	3732.00	309.00
	5983.00	2251.00

REPRESENTED BY :

CLOSING BALANCE ON CURRENT ACCOUNT C/Fwd	5799.00	2067.00
CLOSING BALANCE ON DEPOSIT ACCOUNT C/Fwd	0.00	0.00
PRIZE BONDS	184.00	184.00
	5983.00	2251.00

AUDITOR's REPORT

I have examined the above Receipts and Payments Account and have obtained all the information and explanations which I considered necessary and find the Accounts are in accordance therewith.

Desmond E Campbell

Auditor

11.04.2025

FRIENDS of CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Access 30 Deposit Account

Account No. 93-12-25 15214708

31.02.2023	Balance Forward	62009.91
02.04.24	Interest	76.87
		62086.78
16.04.24	Grant to Choir tour	-5000
		57086.78
01.10.24	Interest	73.37
31.12.2024	Balance Forward	57160.15
LESS committed for calligraphy of St John's Gospel		-10000
		47160.15

FRIENDS of CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Rev. Canon Norman Commiskey Fund

Access 30 Deposit Account No. 93-12-25 15214625

2024		€
31.12.2023	Balance Brought Fwd	149.33
02.04.24	Interest	0.17
00.06.24	AIB Divd.	0.53
01.10.24	Interest	0.18
27.11.24	B of I Div'd	97.12
31.12.2024	Balance Forward	247.33

INVESTMENTS

	PRICE: 31.12.24	PRICE: 31.12.23	31.12.24	31.12.23
370 Bank of Ireland Ordry Stk.	8.81	8.22	3259.70	3041.40
Total:			3259.70	3041.40

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

August – December 2025

AUGUST

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Tues 5 Aug | Friends' first Tuesday tours: 'Georgians immortalised' by art historian, Adrian Le Harivel |
| Sat 9 Aug | Bell ringing: Irish Association of Change Ringers Eastern District Practice & Taylor cup |
| Sat 16 Aug | Heritage Week: Self-guiding kids archaeological & historical trail, International tours in French, Portuguese, English, Ukrainian & Spanish, Bell ringing demonstration & Tile workshop |
| Sun 17 Aug | Eucharist & evensong sung by Lux Brumalis (directed by Christ Church bass lay vicar choral, David Yau) & Heritage Week: Crypt to crypt tour |
| Tues 19 Aug | Heritage Week: Norman foundations tour |
| Thur 21 Aug | Heritage Week: Crypt to crypt tour |
| Sun 24 Aug | Heritage Week: Monks' tour |
| Sat 30 Aug | Workshop: Make your own tile |
| Sun 31 Aug | Choral services sung by the Past Choristers |

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Tues 2 Sept | Friends' first Tuesday tours: 'Up the Belfry' by ringing master, Ray Cregan |
| Thur 4 Sept | Evensong sung by cathedral choir & beginning of Michaelmas term |
| Sat 13 Sept | Lunchtime recital: Kvartettarna, Helsingborg, Sweden |
| Sun 14 Sept | Evensong concluding Ecumenical Bible Week |
| Wed 17 Sept | Friends' outing: 20th-century stained glass walk with art historian, Adrian Le Harivel |
| Fri 19 Sept | Culture Night |
| Wed 24 Sept | Friends in Conversation: Exploring the Wexford Festival Opera |
| Thur 25 Sept | Community of St Laurence AGM |
| Sat 27 Sept | Lunchtime recital: Moljegapet Blandakor, Ålesund, Norway & Church of Ireland Historical Society & launch of Patrick Little (ed.), <i>The Church of Ireland under the Stuarts</i> (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2025) |
| Sun 28 Sept | Confirmation service: Dalkey, Rathmichael, Glengageary & Stillorgan |

OCTOBER

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Sun 5 Oct | Evensong & installation of canons: The Revd Alan Breen & the Revd Garth Bunting |
| Tues 7 Oct | Friends' first Tuesday tours: 'Keeping the fabric together' by surveyor of the fabric, Frank Keohane |
| Thur 9 Oct | Reading & Performance: Old songs (Amy Jeffs) |
| Sat 11 Oct | Open House: Monks' tours & workshop on decorating medieval manuscripts (Timothy O'Neill), then evening concert in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Ireland |

Wed 15 Oct	Friends' outing: Saint-Gallen & medieval Ireland exhibition at National Museum of Ireland (Adrian Le Harivel)
Fri 17 - Sun 19 Oct	Open House: Architecture tours

NOVEMBER

Sat 1 Nov	Concert: Bach <i>Mass in B minor</i> with Irish Baroque Orchestra
Tues 4 Nov	Friends' first Tuesday tours: 'Commemorating St Laurence O'Toole on his 800th anniversary' by the dean, the Very Revd Dermot Dunne
Sat 8 Nov	Evening concert: New Dublin Voices
Thur 13 Nov	Festal Evensong on eve of St Laurence O'Toole's day & reception for visitors from Eu in France attending for the 800th anniversary of St Laurence's canonization
Fri 14 Nov	Community of St Laurence: Annual St Laurence day crypt dinner
Thur 20 Nov	Friends' outing: Irish Georgian Society HQ & Powerscourt House with art historian, Adrian Le Harivel, & Evening DePaul Service of Life
Fri 28 Nov	Evening vigil for the Order of St Lazarus

DECEMBER

Tues 2 Dec	Friends' first Tuesday tours: 'Dressing the cathedral for Christmas'
Thur 4 Dec	Evening concert: Focus Ireland
Sat 6 Dec	Evening concert: New Dublin Voices
Sun 7 Dec	Evening concert: A&L Goodbody
Mon 8 Dec	Evening Concert: Aidlink
Tues 9 Dec	Lunchtime carols: PEATA service & evening carol concert: Cathedral Choir
Wed 10 Dec	Evening carol concerts: Cathedral Choir
Thur 11 Dec	Evening carol concerts: Cathedral Choir
Fri 12 Dec	Evening concert: London Concertante
Sat 13 Dec	Bell ringing: Irish Association of Bell Ringers: Eastern District Practice at Christ Church; Workshops: Wreath making & Evening concert: New Dublin Voices
Sun 14 Dec	Evening concert: A&L Goodbody
Wed 17 Dec	Taizé service
Thur 18 Dec	Concert: Mount Sackville
Fri 19 Dec	Carol service: St Catherine's National School
Fri 19 Dec	Evening concert: Dublin Youth Choir
Sat 20 Dec	Evening concert: Mornington Singers
Sun 21 Dec	Concert: Christ Church Community Chorus
Mon 22 Dec	Carol service: Nine Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve 24 Dec	Festal Eucharist for Christmas Eve
Christmas Day 25 Dec	Festal Eucharist for Christmas Day

*With particular thanks to Shawn Talbot, Senior Tourism & Events Coordinator,
& Sophie Gough, Tourism, Events & Marketing Officer.*

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN

Personnel

BISHOP

Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough:

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson (2011)

CHAPTER

Dignitaries

Dean: The Very Revd Dermot P.M. Dunne (2008)

Precentor & Deputy Dean: The Revd Canon Roy H. Byrne (2017)

Chancellor: The Revd Canon David S. Mungavin (2015)

Treasurer: The Revd Canon Tom O'Brien (2024)

Archdeacon of Dublin: The Venerable David A. Pierpoint (2004)

Archdeacon of Glendalough: The Venerable Ross Styles (2024)

CANONS

Prebendary of St Michael's: The Revd Canon Wm Deverell (2013)

Prebendary of St Michan's: The Revd Canon David Gillespie (2014)

Prebendary of St John's: The Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott (2015)

Fourth Canon: The Revd Canon Adrienne Galligan (2015)

Fifth Canon: The Revd Canon Sonia Gyles (2017)

Sixth Canon: The Revd Canon Leonard Ruddock (2018)

Seventh Canon: The Revd Canon Andrew McCroskery (2019)

Eighth Canon: The Revd Canon Professor Anne Lodge (2024)

Ninth Canon: The Revd Canon Paul Arbuthnot (2024)

Tenth Canon: The Revd Canon Suzanne Harris (2025)

Eleventh Canon: The Revd Canon Garth Bunting (2025)

Twelfth Canon: The Revd Canon Alan Breen (2025)

Ecumenical Canons

The Revd Tom Layden, S.J. (2020)

Metropolitan Archbishop Josef, Romanian Orthodox
archbishop of western and central Europe (2024)

Lay Canons

Professor Jim Lucey (2017), Inspector of Mental Health Services

Annie Fletcher (2024), Director of Irish Museum of Modern Art

CLERGY

Dean's Vicar & Chapter Clerk: The Revd Lindsay Llewellyn-MacDuff (2024)

Priest Scholar: The Revd Canon Professor Anne Lodge (2021)

Parish Vicar: The Venerable David Pierpoint (1995)

Honorary Assistant Clergy: The Revd Kalmer Kesküla (2007)

Chaplain: The Revd Martin Hilliard (2023)

HONORARY CLERICAL VICARS

The Revd Canon Gillian V. Wharton (1996)

The Revd Canon Dr William Marshall (2002)

The Revd Elaine Dunne (2006)

The Revd Canon Ginnie Kennerley (2010)

The Revd Robert W. Deane (2018)

The Revd Canon Olive Donohoe (2024)

LAY CHAPLAINS

Mr Bernard V.A.J. Woods (2008), Diocesan Lay Reader
Mr James Kilbey (2013), Diocesan Lay Reader
Dr David Williams (2016), Diocesan Lay Reader (Wednesdays)
Mr Bert Van Embden (2018), Diocesan Lay Reader (Mondays)
Dr Margaret Daly Denton (2018) (Fridays)

MUSIC

Organist & Director of Music: Mr Tom Little (2020), FRCO
Assistant Organist & Director of Music: Mr James Short (2022), FRCO
Music Department: Mr Tomos Watkins (2023)

CHOIR

Decani: Lay Vicars Choral *Cantoris: Lay Vicars Choral*

SOPRANOS

Ms Clare O'Brien (2014)	Dr Sue Hemmens (1982)
Ms Judith Lyons (2020)	Ms Tracy Nagle (2015)
Ms Holly Woods (2022)	Ms Hannah Barrett (2021)
Ms Iseult Law (2024)	Ms Caitríona Fitzmaurice (2024)
	Ms Eleanor Murchan (2025), Choral Scholar

ALTOS

Ms Laura-Joy Copeland (2022)	Ms Laura Howes (2023)
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TENORS

Mr Jacek Wislocki (2016)	Dr Stuart Kinsella (2020)
Dr Matthew Thomson (2024)	

BASSES

Mr Tomos 'Twm' Watkins (2021)	Mr Michael McCartan (2020)
Mr David Yau (2023)	Mr Louis O'Carroll (2023)

PAST CHORISTERS' ASSOCIATION

Chair: Ms Anthea Seager (2024)	Mrs Jean Finch (2025)
Secretary: Ms Judy Pomeroy (2025)	Ms Judith Gannon (2025)
Treasurer: Mr Stephen Perry (2025)	Mr Tom Little (2025)
Communications: Ms Lesley-Anne Carey (2025)	Mr Tomos 'Twm' Watkins (2025)
Media: Mr Éanna McCriostal (2025)	Mr James Short (2025)
Archives: Dr Susan Hood (2025)	Mr Victor Coe (2025)

BELFRY

Ringling Master: Mr Ray Cregan (2021)
Steeple Keepers: Mr Tony Reale (2005) & Mr David Hogan (2015)

Christ Church Cathedral Society of Change Ringers

Chair: Ms Una Caulfield (2015)
Honorary Secretary: Mr Ray Cregan (2024)
Honorary Treasurer: Ms Una Caulfield (2024)

BOARD

Clerical Members <i>(Jure officio)</i>	Lay Members <i>(Elected by the Easter Vestry for the period 2023–6)</i>
The Very Revd D.P.M. Dunne, Dean	Mr Desmond Campbell

The Revd Canon Roy Byrne, Precentor	Mr Michael Denton
The Revd Canon David Mungavin, Chancellor	Mr Dermot Hore (Hon. Secretary)
The Revd Canon Tom O'Brien, Treasurer <i>(Elected by the Chapter for the period 2023–6)</i>	Mr David Irwin
The Ven. Ross Styles, archdeacon of Glendalough	Mr Gerry Kearney
The Revd Canon William R.H. Deverell	Mr James Kelly
The Revd Canon Dr Maurice Elliott (2015)	Mr Andrew Lindsay
The Revd Canon Sonia Gyles	Mr Jim Loughran
Vacant	Mrs Lesley Vize
	<i>Honorary Members (in attendance, non-voting)</i>
	The Revd Canon Fr Tom Layden, S.J.
	Mr Liam Byrne (Treasurer)

OFFICE

Chief Executive Officer: Ms Susanne Reid (2020)
Cultural Liaison Officer & Dean's PA: Ms Elizabeth Oxley (2024)
Cathedral Manager: Mr John Farrelly (2022)
Office Administrator: Ms Hannah Hughes (2025)
Office Manager: Mr Tony Flynn (2025)
Human Resources Manager: Ms Paula Hennessey (2022)

TOURISM

Senior Tourism & Event Coordinator: Ms Shawn Talbot (2018)
Tourism, Events & Marketing Officer: Ms Sophie Gough (2018)
Retail Manager: Mr Raymond Scullion (2019)
Retail Assistant: Ms Una Lane (2023)

FABRIC

Surveyor of the Fabric: Mr Frank Keohane (2021)

EDUCATION & HERITAGE

Head of Learning & Interpretation: Dr Ruth Kenny (2015)
Hon. Keeper of the Archives: Dr Raymond Refaussé (2020)
Research Advisor: Dr Stuart Kinsella (2005)

VERGERS, WELCOME & EVENTS

Mr Andy O'Hare, Head Verger (2016) & Dean's Verger (2023)
Mr Daire Daly, Health & Safety Officer & Tour Guide (2010)
Mr Derry Mescal, Verger (2023)
The Revd Victor Ilechukwu, Verger (2023)
Mr Thomas Gilleran, Verger (2024)
Mr Dener A.S. Machado, Verger (2024)
Mr David Nwanolue, Verger (2025)
Ms Charline Zachariades (2023), Welcome Desk Supervisor
Mr Tom O'Sullivan (2022), Senior Cathedral Assistant

THE COMMUNITY OF ST LAURENCE

Co-wardens: Imad Hazboun & Matthew Zaradich
Secretary / Treasurer: Vivienne George

CONTACT DETAILS

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Instagram: www.instagram.com/christchurchdublin/



Scaffolding the clerestory windows.

COVER ILLUSTRATIONS

FRONT COVER: Pigeon with president's glasses flies over Christ Church from Peter Donnelly, *The President's Glasses* (2018).

INNER BACK COVER: Hops springs eternal for newlyweds, Laura & Rónán Kelly upstairs in the choir's local, the Lord Edward across the road from the cathedral.

BACK COVER: A view of the cathedral from the car park of the Franciscan Church of the Immaculate Conception (Adam & Eve's) on Merchant's Quay.

SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Front cover: Pigeon with the president's glasses flying over cathedral (Peter Donnelly, *The President's Glasses* (Dublin, 2018, 2022)); p.5: View of nave scaffolding from south transept (Stuart Kinsella); p.6: Mendicity coffee truck (SK); p.9: Ringing master Ray Cregan, Gary Brannigan & photobombing seagull (Adam Walsh); p.11: Communications competition (Peter Cheney); p.13: Choir screen from Street & Seymour, *Cathedral of the Holy Trinity...* (London, 1882), opp. p.130; p.14: Archbishop Jackson & Dean Dunne at Château d'Eu (Lynn Glanville); p.15: Candlemas procession (LG); p.16: external nave scaffolding (SK); p.17: New chapter house new carpet & new carpet & partition in upstairs office; p.18: 'We are open' sign on scaffolding (SK); p.19: internal scaffolding (SK); p.20: scaffolding walkway & damaged stained glass (FK); p.21: window surround (FK); p.22: Dublin City Development Plan 2022-28 (Dublin City Council); p.23: map from tender brief (DCC), John Rocque's 1756 map of Dublin (Harvard University Map Collection, G5784_D8A1_1756_R61_Stitched online); p.24: Hanlon's engraving of Jonathan Swift's birthplace (W.R. Wilde, *Closing years of Dean Swift's life* (Dublin, 1849), p.92; former Labour Exchange building interior (DCC); p.25: city wall from Pool gate to Dublin castle from *Dublin City Walls and Defences Conservation Plan* (2004); patchwork of masonry & building phases of section of city wall west of Dublin castle (SK); River Poddle (DCC, drainage section); p.26: St Werburgh's church (SK); p.27: Masterplan & early test models from *Design Team's Stage 1 report on the Werburgh SDRA Masterplan*; p.28: BBC Proms logo; p.29: James & Viní (Eve Short), choir ladies (SK); Laura Joy & Rónán Kelly & entourage (Lisa Chonier); p.30: Lux Brumalis (Canon Paul Arbuthnot); p.31: organ recital poster (James Short), James & Gavin (Pearl Lawrence); p.32: *Dido & Aeneas* soloists (Michael McCartan); p.33: Culture Date with D8 festival chorus participants (Siobhán Lynam); Dido & Aeneas performance (SL), Twm Watkins conducting D&A (Caitríona Fitzmaurice); scaffolded summer soirée (SK); p.34: Judiths (Victor Coe), crypt table quiz winners (Lesley-Anne Carey); p.35: Pride & Prejudice screening (Paul Fitters); p.36: joint cathedral past choristers (Aaron Hoey); p.37: Pride ringing (Michael Ryan); p.38: Drogheda Boyne cup (Una Caulfield); Arklow Lindoff cup (Rosemary O'Brien); p.39: Segovia (David Casado); p.40: Doneraile (Rachel Wharton); Taylor cup (SK); p.42: New Year from past chorister & ringer, David Franklin from *Irish Times* where David Taylor worked; identifications by Nigel, Lesley & David T.; Bell chamber four from *Evening Herald* (5 December 1977); p.43: tile-making workshop (Ruth Kenny); p.44: Kelly Tavalassi leading the monks' tour (RK); Dr Greg Sullivan (GS); p.45: Proctor's accounts (Liz D'Arcy); p.46: restored model in crypt (Hannah Hughes); p.47: Restored Catterson Smith portrait of Archbishop Whately & nameplate detail (HH); p.48: Christ Church image & cover from Donnelly, *President's Glasses*; p.49: Coin depicting King Sitric (Dr Andrew Woods, York Museums Trust); p.49: Irish kings (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Département des Manuscrits, Français 2648, Le 'quart Livre maistre Jehan Froissart' (?1337-c.1404), f. 363r, with thanks to Drs Elizabeth Biggs & Catherine Yvard); p.50: Lady chapel c.1739 from *Whole works of Sir James Ware concerning Ireland*, ed. Walter Harris (3 vols, Dublin, 1739-64), i, opp. p.299; p.51: cover, Jo Harkin, *The Pretender* (2025), Kildare chantry chapel (Dublin City Library & Archive, Gilbert collection, Ms 1c (8), Mason, *St Patrick's* (Dublin, 1820), mss drawing in end papers; p.52: Crypt entrance mural tablet (SK); p.53: President De Valera (*Church of Ireland Gazette*, 10:1 (5 January 1973)); President Hillery attending Christian Unity service (RTÉ archives footage, <https://www.rte.ie/archives/collections/news/21266438-christian-unity-service>); p.54: President McAleese, Archbishop Neill & Dean Paterson unveiling presidential fall (Valerie Jones (1943–2014), former Dublin & Glendalough diocesan communications officer, 1991–2003); p.55: tomb of St Laurence O'Toole (Pierre André Leclercq, Creative Commons ShareAlike license (Wikimedia)); p.56: Jesse Harrington lecturing at Château d'Eu; p.57: Sunday mass; p.57: JH with reliquary bust & chest (JH); p.60: Sofia Belleggia (SB); p.61: Le Harivel (SK), Kildare monument (SK); p.63: Rathfarnham castle (AndrewH, Wikimedia); p.64: RIAM (Midland Construction); p.65 Whyte Hall (Alison Byrne); p.66 Community photos (Matty Zaradich); p.67: chapter house Pride (LG); p.68: Pride reception (SK); p.69: Newman (William Barry, *Newman* (London, 1904), opp. title page); p.70: Boulevard view (SK); p.72: PA (PA); RC (SK); p.73: KF (KF), MZ (MZ); p.77: Goldfish (SK); p.85: Erecting scaffolding (SK); p.87: Marital Lord Ed pints (LC); Back cover (SK).



